A CENTURY OF BENEFICENCE: 1769—1869.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

CORPORATION FOR THE RELIEF

OF THE

WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF CLERGYMEN

IN THE

COMMUNION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

IN THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA;

AND OF

THE COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY CORPORATION WHICH PRECEDED IT, AND IN THE LINE OF WHICH IT CONTINUES.

BY

JOHN WILLIAM WALLACE.

PHILADELPHIA:
SHERMAN & CO., PRINTERS.
1870.

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ERRATA.

Page 15, 6th line from the bottom, for "*this* charge," read "*the* charge."
Page 41, 18th line from the bottom, for "1783," read "1784."
Page 69, 16th line from the bottom, for "*offered* it" read "*opposed* it."

Washington, D. C., April 15th, 1870.

To the Honorable Peter McCall, Esq.,

Chairman of the Acting Committee of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

My dear Sir: I issue this tract with feelings in which no person better than yourself can participate. After the last annual meeting of our Corporation, where attention had been directed to the fact that the Society had now completed a hundred years of usefulness, the late Mr. Horace Binney, Jr., suggested to me that I should prepare some historical sketch of the Association. Absorbing and responsible engagements in this city compelled me, however, with my thanks for his confidence, to decline the undertaking. Being with him in New England in the early summer, on an occasion of particular interest to himself as also of interest to me, he renewed the expression of his wish, and accordingly, during the more advanced summer season, in the retirement which the shades of Saratoga afford to some, as its lighter scenes give exhibition to others, I sketched the pages which follow.

I did not see Mr. Binney again till near the Christmas holidays, when I asked him to come to my house on an evening not distant, which I named, that I might read to him the paper which I had written. I read to him on that evening what follows, omitting only the parts which related to himself and to his venerable father. He was pleased to express great satisfaction at what I had done, and desired me to have the paper printed in any style most agreeable to myself. The last remarks which he made before we parted on that evening, were those of earnest wish and animated hope that our Pennsylvania clergy might be led more and more to connect themselves to the advantage of their families with our Corporation, and that the pamphlet itself might aid in inducing dioceses elsewhere, which had them not, to form societies like our own. I returned soon afterwards to this city, and almost the first intelligence which I had of him here, was the announcement of his death and a telegram to follow him to the grave.

What the Church lost in the death of this excellent man, what its

poorer clergy lost, what was lost in example and encouragement to its laymen by the departure of one among themselves, whose conduct in all things conformed as nearly as that of any in their order whom I have known, to the standard of the Epistles and Gospels—how irreparable was the misfortune to every "friendless name," of which it was possible for him by sympathy or by service to be the "friend"—how much the cause of right education and of all good letters, have reason to mourn his death—these are matters which—while, for himself, his left hand knew not concerning them what his right one did—are known to many, but by few better than by you, much his contemporary in years, his neighbor and friend from boyhood, and a fellow-worker with him in many associations through which his beneficence sought best to exercise its purpose; most of all, his constant co-operator in the Acting Committee of this special Corporation, whose annals I, a spectator only of its usefulness, have here hastily put together.

To no one, then, more properly than to you, my own excellent friend, can I inscribe this tract, and to no one to whom I could inscribe it at all, could I inscribe it with expressions of more true respect and affection.

J. W. Wallace.

HISTORICAL SKETCH,

ETC.

I. PRE-REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY.

THE Society which makes the subject of our sketch deserves to be regarded by American churchmen with feelings of peculiar affection and respect. It was to an interest in *it*, and for the purpose of consulting upon *its* affairs, that the few clergy of the Church in the Middle States who remained on this continent in 1783, were first reassembled, after their union with the loyalist clergy who returned to England, and, to a large degree, their intercourse with one another, had been broken up, and the Church itself laid prostrate, by the Revolution of 1776. And to the assemblage of its members in New Brunswick, in May, 1784, upon the concerns of this Corporation, we are primarily indebted for those measures which ended in the present happy constitution of the Church on this continent, and in the settling and establishment, in 1789, of the Book of Common Prayer, according to that use which, at the distance of eighty years, remains so generally acceptable to members of the Church throughout our land.* In an historical aspect, some account of such a Corporation—a Corporation which includes in the list of its early members the names of many persons, both among the clergy and the laity, conspicuous in all the early councils of the Church in this Republic, and which continues still in useful operation throughout three States of this Union—ought not to be uninteresting.†

* Bishop White's Memoirs, 2d ed., p. 21.

† How numerous were the members of this Corporation who were participants in the first general conventions of the Church, will appear by the list of members of the corporation at the end of this sketch, where most such are marked with a *.

The distressed condition to which the Episcopal clergy, in the more northern of the then British provinces of America —nearly all of them but missionaries from a distant land— found themselves sometimes reduced by advanced years, infirmity of health, and other casualties, early attracted notice from benevolent members of the English Church. As early as December, 1715, Archbishop Tenison left £1000 sterling to his executors to put it out "to interest upon sure public funds," and until the happening of an event which he specified —then very contingent and which in fact never occurred*— "to apply the interest to the benefit of such missionaries, being Englishmen, and of the province of Canterbury, as they should find, upon good information, to have taken true pains in the respective places which have been committed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to their care in the said foreign plantations, and have been by unavoidable sickness or other infirmities of the body, or old age, disabled from the performance of their duties in the said places or precincts, and forced to return to England." But this bequest, so restricted in its character and of the extent of whose beneficial effect I am not informed, made no provision for those persons who were objects of perhaps greater sympathy and more beneficent interest than even the faithful clergy disabled by infirmity or age for the performance of further duty. I refer, of course, to the helpless widows and to the unprotected children whom such clergy sometimes leave behind them when summoned from the labors of life to their promised rewards. Here was a class that in all countries where the Protestant clergy exist, engage by the strongest appeals the sympathies of society, and yet for whom society seldom is greatly disposed and sometimes scarcely able to make any *sufficient* provision. The condition of such survivors in our early British provinces, settled as they mostly were "in the dissidence of dissent," where the parishes were few, scattered, poor and feeble, and where the sufferers were far away from home and friends, we may well believe to have been

* The consecration of two bishops, "one for the Continent, another for the Isles of North America." See "*A Critical Commentary on Archbishop Secker's Letter to the Right Hon. Horatio Walpole concerning Bishops in America.*" Philadelphia, 1771, p. 21.

sometimes distressing in the extreme. But prior to the middle of the last century, I am not aware that any attempt was ever made to provide relief against it. In October of the year 1767, after sundry overtures from time to time, it was at length resolved at a meeting of the clergy at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, "to appoint a committee to frame some plan of provision" for them. And in pursuance of the appointment, the Rev. Dr. Auchmuty, Rector of Trinity Church, New York; the Rev. Dr. Myles Cooper, President of King's College in that same place; the Rev. Mr. Cooke, missionary, from 1751 till the Revolution, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, at Shrewsbury in New Jersey—a place where the Church had been established since 1702—and the Rev. Dr. William Smith, the well-known Provost of the College and Academy in Philadelphia, drew up, for the approbation of their brethren, a scheme for a company, which was in fact a scheme for a company for insurance on lives of the clergy in the three provinces of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and recommended to them to solicit charters in each of the provinces which I have named. The result of this meeting was the establishment of "The Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America;" whose hundredth year has now been accomplished; a Society whose funds, then common to the clergy in the three provinces of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, amounted in its origin to £407 10*s.* in Pennsylvania money, about $1106 of our Federal money, but which, after paying every lawful claim ever presented to it in the way of contract, and after having distributed to those entitled to its benefits thousands upon thousands of dollars above what they were entitled to demand of right, finds itself in 1869, in the Pennsylvania branch of it alone, the possessor of nearly $300,000 of solidly invested wealth, its obligations, most of them in the future, being less than a third of this sum, and which seems but now entering upon a career of usefulness to whose limits, if indifference in the clergy of Pennsylvania to the temporal interests of their wives and children, in case of their own death, does not prevent it, there seems difficulty to set a bound.

Before attempting any sketch of this century of beneficial

existence, we pause a moment, arrested by an inquiry which suggests itself at the threshold of our subject.

Although efforts at the elucidation of what mortal men call "chances," engaged, towards the end of the 17th century, the attention of Huygens, Pascal, Bernouillé, and others, the actual subject of insuring lives, and granting annuities upon them, is a thing of modern institution. In France, until the time of De Moivre, several of whose brilliant results were left to us without a knowledge of the steps by which he attained them,* the thing was forbidden by law as against the principles of morality and nature. The oldest English company goes back, I believe, no further than to 1706: in which year the Amicable Society was established at Sergeants' Inn, London, and notwithstanding the "Table of Mortality," as it was then called, prepared thirteen years before by the great astronomer and mathematician, Dr. Halley, it was not until the time of Dr. Richard Price, a non-conforming minister of eminence, in the middle of the last century, that even in England the subject was much considered on true principles, if even then it was fully so. Dr. Price's essays on the subjects of "Reversionary Payments," of "Schemes for Providing Annuities for Widows and Persons in Old Age," and on "The Method of Calculating the Values of Assurances on Lives," mark, I think, the date when the thing began to be understood in England. In our own country, no general essay towards it was made, even theoretically, till 1772, when William Gordon, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, printed a pamphlet of 35 pages, entitled "*The Plan of a Society for making Provision for Widows by Annuities for the Remainder of Life; with the Proper Tables for calculating what must be paid by the several Members in order to secure the said Advantages.*" In the preface to this tract, Gordon states that one of the motives to his publication was the fact "that there were no general societies of this nature in America." I am not aware that his tract caused the establishment of any one anywhere, or even that it attracted any public notice. Indeed, the statement made by Dr. Price—a very bad authority, with the readers of Mr. Burke, on subjects either political or religious,† but justly

* See The Quarterly Review, vol. 64, p. 285.

† See Reflexions on the Revolution in France.

esteemed perhaps as a writer on the subject of life insurance, and who more than any man of his day was familiar with the history and management of these institutions—that of all those established in England, but one, the Amicable, already mentioned, had, up to his day, "stood any considerable trial from time and experience," and who records it as the result of his observations, derived from the showings of "melancholy experience," "that *none but mathematicians* were qualified for forming and conducting schemes of this sort"—would have been quite enough to have deterred most prudent men in Philadelphia, in 1769, for wishing to participate in such schemes, either as managers or as parties contracting.

That such an institution as the one which we are describing —a Clerical Life Annuity Company—did not in 1769 originate from suggestion or providence of the clergy in the Middle Provinces generally, is, I apprehend, quite certain. As a body the clergy have never been much mindful of their temporal interests; and interpreting in all the senses in which it should be interpreted, and in some senses wider perhaps than was meant, the command from the Mount about thought for the morrow, they have omitted to resort to those allowable temporal aids which would have relieved them of even temptation to take any thought in regard to it. The records of the Society itself prove this, and while abundant provision has existed by which the families of the clergy could be placed above want, and the minds of the clergy themselves made free on this score from anxiety for the future, it has been chiefly by the counsels and urgency of laymen that any of them have profited by the munificent provisions which our own Society has offered to them.

Who then was the individual, equally humane and intelligent, so far in advance of the country, and we may even say of the day also, in which he lived, that first conceived as practicable in this new region, and for the benefit of a small and special class, this sort of beneficent scheme; a scheme originating in an idea, which it is only in our days and under the vicissitudes of commercial life in times when these vicissitudes have been greatly multiplied, that even the secular classes have carried into effect among themselves; a scheme "which although founded on self-interest, is yet the most en-

lightened and benevolent form which the projects of self-interest ever took," and which among the clergy, as among all others who have resorted to its more solid administrations, has proved of vast advantage to families thus solaced in their afflictions, and but for such solace dependent and destitute alike? Was the idea in the case of our own Corporation original in the colonial Church itself, or did we derive it from some other religious body among us, or did it come from the mother Church in England? Justice compels me to think that a first suggestion may have been given to us by the Presbyterian body in our own city: a body distinguished in that day by a piety and intelligence not since in it exceeded. As far back as 1759, ten years before our own incorporation, a charter had been granted by the Penns to the Rev. Francis Allison, and others, under the name of "The Corporation for the Relief of Poor and Distressed Presbyterian Ministers, and *of the Poor and Distressed Widows and Children* of Presbyterian Ministers." But although the two corporations had in part the same humane end in view as respected the clergy of their respective churches, and although the peculiar principle of quintuple annuities prevailed in both, the two societies were in some respects different; different even in part as to their main objects; our own Society not providing, until of quite late years, for the clergy themselves at all, but only for their widows and children.

Nothing which I have had leisure to look into just now, enables me to say with confidence where the idea of our own Society originated, or by whom it was originally inspired. Indications, I think, rather point to Dr. William Smith, already named, as the first mover among the Episcopal clergy in this scheme of beneficence for the families of his reverend brethren; a man of a bold and original cast of thought, of active usefulness, and of great powers of giving effect to all that he undertook; highly admired both at home and abroad for his eloquence, and whom, as I suppose, nothing but some of those infirmities which often attend superior genius, though happily, as splendid proofs in the Church attest, not inseparable from it, prevented from arriving at the honors of the Episcopate itself.* If Dr. Smith was this agent in giving shape to our

* See Wilson's Memoir of Bishop White.

Society, he probably took his first idea from the then existing Presbyterian corporation. He was provost of the University from 1754 till long after our Society was incorporated, while Dr. Allison was Vice Provost from 1755 for almost as long a term. Dr. Smith was necessarily in relations of some intimacy with his fellow-member of the Faculty, and must have had knowledge, in so small a place as Philadelphia then was, of the existence of a Corporation of which his co-professor was a corporator, and I think a prominent officer. If, indeed, the heart and mind of Francis Allison were the seminary which furnished forth the germinating principle from which a Church society has grown to maturity and strength, we may still gratefully acknowledge our obligation. He was the preceptor of William White and of William Tilghman, and both his scholars have left record of his virtues. Churchmen may at least say of him what the orthodox Johnson was not unwilling to say of the pious Watts, "that happy will any one be who is disposed by his example to imitate him in all but his non-conformity, to copy his benevolence to man and his reverence to God."*

Notwithstanding what I have thus said, however, I think it probable that for our exact form we were more indebted to the Church of England. Dr. Smith, as his recent and most full biographer, the Provost Stillé, informs us,† had been travelling in both England and Scotland in 1762–3–4, and he was in large intercourse at all times, up to our Revolution, with the higher clergy of both countries, and, indeed, with

* I may the rather be allowed thus to speak of Allison, since our own clergy have recorded that, by his pious eloquence, they were led to feel anew the force of their vows at ordination, and to consecrate themselves with fresh zeal to the service of Heaven. In a curious manuscript diary of the Rev. Joseph Pilmore, D.D., the venerable rector of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia, and for nearly forty years a member of our own Corporation, I find this entry, under the date of "Wednesday, 17th November, 1774:"

"When family worship was over, I went with my honorable friend, Mr. Wallace, to the old Presbyterian Church, to be present at the ordination of Mr. Davidson, who was this day set apart for the service of God and His people. Dr. Allison gave the charge, and a masterly one, indeed, it was. My heart was so affected and drawn out with love to Christ and his ransomed people, that I resolved to devote myself to him afresh, and fill up all my future days to his honor and glory."

† Memoir of the Rev. William Smith, D.D., by C. J. Stillé, Philadelphia, 1869, pp. 24, 30.

many of their men eminent in other spheres. During his stay in Great Britain, public attention had been particularly directed to provisions for support by way of annuities. "The London Annuity Society" and "The Laudable Society" were now in operation; the last begun in 1761, and the other established not very long after. And in April, 1761, as Dr. Price informs us—this being just after Dr. Smith's return to Philadelphia—an association of the English *clergy* in and about London, at a general meeting at Sion College, "agreed to form themselves into a society for the support of *their widows and orphans* on the plan of annuities." That was the exact object of our own Corporation, but not the *exact* object of the Presbyterian one. In this association of the clergy of the mother Church then, we probably have, at least, the active cause of a society like it; though perhaps the original idea may have had a domestic and not quite so orthodox an origin.

We return, however, to our sketch of the Society itself.

The design of the Corporation having obtained the approbation of several succeeding meetings of the clergy, and a draft of a charter being settled, two persons were appointed in each province to solicit the passing thereof, viz., the Rev. Dr. Auchmuty and Dr. Cooper, in New York, the Rev. Mr. Cooke and the Rev. Mr. Odell, in New Jersey, and the Rev. Mr. Peters and Dr. Smith in Pennsylvania. "And justice requires," says Dr. Smith in narrating this part of the history, "that the most public and grateful testimony should be given of that readiness and cheerfulness with which the several governors consented to the grant of the charters in their respective provinces. The charter for Pennsylvania," the narrative continues, "was obtained on the 7th of February, 1769; the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, the Governor, having ordered the seal to be put to it on the first application. And the worthy and honorable proprietaries of the Province, as soon as the design was made known to them in London, took the earliest opportunity to signify their hearty approbation of it and wishes for its success. His Excellency Governor Franklin showed the same readiness, and the charter of New Jersey was completed in May. That for New York, although cheerfully assented to by his Excellency, Sir Henry Moore, *Bart.*, was delayed by his indisposition and death; but the passing

of it was one of the first acts of his successor, the Honorable Lieutenant-Governor Colden, who put the seal to it on the 29th of September last."* These charters were from GEORGE THE THIRD, by the grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom the presents should come. The Corporation was one and the same in each of the three Provinces; the objects of the three charters, the trusts, the powers and the funds were the same; and the concerns of the Corporation were regulated by the same managers or officers, meeting in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.† Each recited that the King's loving subjects, the clergy of the particular province in communion of the Church of England as by law established, had by petition set forth that the clergy of that Church in the American colonies, and especially the missionaries in the service of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, were with great difficulty able to provide for their families, so that their widows and children were often left in great distress, and that to provide a remedy, application had been made to the proprietaries to erect a Corporation for receiving, managing, and dispensing of such sums of money as might be subscribed and paid in from time to time by the clergy and missionaries themselves, *and such benefactions as might be given by charitable and well-disposed persons* as a fund towards the support and relief of their widows and children. And the patent of incorporation thereupon GAVE and GRANTED that certain persons designated—the names being the same in all the charters, and standing in the same order, excepting only that the names of those who were of the council for each province stood first in the charter granted for that particular province—should be a Body Politic, by the name of "The Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America," capable to purchase, take, hold, receive, enjoy, and transmit property, and to do and execute all things touching and concerning the same, for the benefit, succor, and relief

* 29th September, 1769.

† See the Preface (by the Hon. Horace Binney) to the fundamental By-Laws and Tables of Rates, &c., Philadelphia, 1851; a tract which I frequently refer to hereafter as "Mr. Binney's Preface."

of the widows and children of such deceased clergymen who have been in communion of the Church of England, as shall or may be *contributors* to the funds of the said Corporation, and in such *manner, rates, proportions, and annuities as shall be reasonably settled, adjusted, agreed to, and expressed in the by-laws and regulations which should be made from time to time by the Corporation.* Power was given to the corporators and their successors to meet on the first Tuesday after the Feast of St. Michael in every year, and at such other times and in such places, upon such public notice as might be fixed on and agreed by certain fundamental regulations to be made by a majority of the corporation, and never to be altered but by a like majority. The charter constituted Richard Peters, of the city of Philadelphia, Clerk, to be the first President of the Corporation, Thomas Bradbury Chandler, Doctor in Divinity, to be the first Treasurer, and Jonathan Odell to be the first Secretary, and these persons were to remain in their respective offices until the first Tuesday after the feast of St. Michael, then next ensuing, and from thenceforwards until one president, one or more treasurer or treasurers and one secretary should be chosen in their rooms, in such manner as should be appointed by the fundamental laws. It was ordained that the accounts and transactions of the Society should be laid from time to time before the Lords Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London, or before some person whom they might appoint in America, and that they or he might ratify and confirm them, or subject them to such revisal, check, and confirmation as might be thought just and reasonable.

The first Tuesday after the Feast of St. Michael, the charter day, as fixed by the letters patent, fell, in the year 1769, upon the 3d of October; and in that month of "pathetic loveliness," in the tranquil town of Burlington, New Jersey, a place ever deserving the interest of churchmen in America, as having been designated for the first American Episcopal See—where the first Episcopal residence was purchased, and where the first bishop, who was ever upon this continent, it would seem, resided*—our Corporation first assembled. Clerical

* The Rev. John Talbot, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Burlington, from 1702 to 1724, was consecrated bishop privately soon after 1719, at the hands

members had travelled from New York, Pennsylvania, and from several parts of New Jersey, to be present; and it may be interesting to note that among the representatives from New Jersey, at this earliest meeting of the body, was John Lawrence, Esquire, Mayor of Burlington, and father, I believe, of Captain James Lawrence, whose gallant, though unsuccessful bravery during our second war with England, has made his name so well known, both in that country and ours.

A contemporary printed minute here comes in aid of our pen:

"On Tuesday, October 3d, the president having taken the chair, the different charters were read and compared with each other. On the day following, the members who were met, being nineteen in number, presented an address of thanks to his Excellency, Governor Franklin, which he answered with the warmest wishes for the success of the pious design for which the Corporation had been erected, and added, that it would always give him pleasure to render any acceptable service to the members of the Church of England."

This address, with the reply, are set out in the early minute-book of the Society, kept with remarkable beauty of chirography by the first secretary, Mr. Odell.

With a view of having a larger number of corporators than were present at Burlington, and so of enacting fundamental laws in form strictly agreeable to the tenor of the charter, which required a majority of all the members to be present, the meeting now proceeded to Philadelphia, without breaking up. A committee composed of Doctors Smith, Auchmuty, Chandler, and Cooper, with Benjamin Chew, *Joseph Galloway*, John Ross, and Cortland Skinner, Esquires, were appointed a committee to prepare business for the meeting to be held there: and it was

Resolved, That at every annual meeting of the Corporation, a sermon, suitable to the occasion, be preached by some one of the members; and that each clerical member be prepared to preach in

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of the non-juring bishops, and returned to Burlington, where he died in 1727. See Sermons on Various Occasions by the Rt. Rev. G. W. Doane, D.D., Bishop of New Jersey. London, 1842, pp. 143–5.

his turn, according to the order in which he is named in the charters.

On the 10th of October, the meeting being now in Philadelphia, a larger number of persons were present than it would have been convenient, with the means of travel in that early day, to have assembled at Burlington. A contemporary printed record presents them thus:

REVEREND RICHARD PETERS, *President.*

HON. JOHN PENN, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania.

HON. JAMES HAMILTON, Esq.

BENJAMIN CHEW, Esq., Attorney-General of Pennsylvania.

JAMES TILGHMAN, Esq.

CHARLES READ, Esq.

FREDERICK SMYTHE, Esq., Chief Justice of New Jersey.

JOSEPH GALLOWAY, Esq., Speaker of the Assembly of Pennsylvania.

ALEXANDER STEDMAN,
JOHN ROSS,
RICHARD HOCKLEY,
SAMUEL JOHNSON, } Esquires.

THOMAS WILLING, Esq., one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

JOHN SWIFT,
SAMUEL POWEL,
FRANCIS HOPKINSON,
DR. JOHN KEARSLEY, } Esquires.

DANIEL COXE, Esq., of Trenton, New Jersey.

JOHN LAWRENCE, Esq., Mayor of Burlington, New Jersey.

REV. WILLIAM SMITH,
" SAMUEL AUCHMUTY,
" THOMAS BRADBURY CHANDLER, } D.D.

" MYLES COOPER, . . LL.D.

" WILLIAM CURRIE,
" RICHARD CHARLTON,
" GEORGE CRAIG,
" SAMUEL COOKE,
" THOMAS BARTON,
" WILLIAM THOMPSON,
" JACOB DUCHÉ,
" LEONARD CUTTING,
" ALEXANDER MURRAY, } Clerks.
" JONATHAN ODELL,
" SAMUEL MAGAW,
" JOHN ANDREWS,
" ABRAHAM BEACH,
" WILLIAM AYRES,
" WILLIAM FRAZER,
" HENRY MUHLENBURG,

The first action of the Society seems to have been attendance on divine worship in Christ Church, in which venerable temple, historic in the annals of the Church and State alike, Dr. Smith, whose name stood first in order among those of the clergy in the charter, and who was then the preacher for this year, proceeded to deliver his discourse. It was taken from three texts,* all relating to the fatherless and the widows;

* Job xxix, 11–13; Jeremiah xix, 2; and St. James i, 27.

selected in sueh number, the preaeher says, to show how rich are the saered oracles of God, as in exalted lessons of benevolenee in general, so particularly in that amiable branch thereof which he is to reeommend to the regard of those present. "Through the whole inspired books of the Old Testament, as of the New, we shall scarcely find," he declares, "a writer who hath not made the cause of the fatherless and widows peeuliarly his own."

His diseourse has been more than onee printed, and was widely eireulated at the time. It is an eloquent tribute in the style of that day's oratory, not less good, possibly, than the style of some days sinee, to the charity of the Gospel; and were a elerieal member of our board, in this day, seeking to reeommend to hearers before him, a society like our own, the oratory of no day would, perhaps, furnish better language than that whieh the first provost and first preaeher used, one hundred years ago. Thus he speaks:

You well know the situation and circumstances of the clergy in these Northern Colonies. Except in a few places, their chief support depends on the bounty of our fellow-members of the chureh in Great Britain. The additional support which our clergy receive from their congregations is small and exceedingly precarious; decreasing sometimes, in nominal, often in real value; while the expense of every necessary in life is proportionately increasing. Decency, a regard to character, to their own usefulness, to the credit of religion, and even to *your* credit among whom they minister, require them to maintain some sort of figure in their families above those in common professions and business; while certain it is, on the other hand, that any sober, reputable tradesman can turn his industry to more account than they. I am far from mentioning these things as complaints. I know they are of necessity in many places, and I trust none of my brethren among the clergy will ever make their calculation in this way, but keep their eye on their Master's service, looking forward to "the recompense of reward." Yet, what I mention is so far necessary, as it shows, incontestably, the great propriety of the design before us.

It certainly requires little attention to what passes around us, to see that the families of our deceased clergy are often left among the most distressed in their vicinity. The father, by strict economy and good example, may be able to support them in some de-

gree of reputation during his own life, although not to flatter them with the hopes of any patrimony at his death. By his own care, and some conveniency of schools, he may give the sons the rudiments of an education for his own profession, or some other useful one in the world. The mother, with the like anxious care, and fond hopes of rendering the daughters respectable among their sex, may employ her late and early toil to train their minds to those virtues, and their hands to that diligence and industry, which might one day make them the sweet accomplished companions of worthy men in domestic life.

But alas! amidst all these flattering dreams and fond presages of the heart, the father, perhaps, in his prime of years and usefulness, is called from this world. The prop and stay of all this promising family is now no more! His life was their whole dependence, under God, even for daily bread! His death leaves them destitute—destitute, alas! not of bread only, but even of counsel and protection upon earth!

Fatal reverse—Ah! little do the world in general, and especially they who bask in the easy sunshine of affluence and prosperity—little do they know the various complicated scenes of private anguish and distress. Here they are various and complicated indeed!

The bereaved and disconsolate mother, as soon as Christian reflection begins to dry up her tears a little, finds them wrung from her afresh by the melancholy task that remains to her. She is now, alas, to reduce the once flattering hopes of her tender family, to the standard of their present sad and humbled condition! Hard task, indeed! The son is to be told that he must no more aspire to reach the station which his father filled; and the daughter is to learn that, in this hard and selfish world, she must no longer expect to become the wife of him, to whom she once might have looked on terms of equality. The son, perhaps, must descend to some manual employ, while even the poor pittance necessary to settle him in that, is not to be found; and the daughter must serve strangers, or be yoked, perhaps, in marriage for mere bread; while the mournful mother without the slow-procured help of friends, can scarce furnish out the decent wedding-garment!

What did I say? the decent wedding-garment, and a marriage for mere bread? This were an issue of troubles devoutly to be wished for! But, ah me! The snares of poverty in a mind once bred up above it—shall every unguarded, unprotected female be able to escape them? Alas! no. . . . . The picture here drawn is no exaggerated one; and when the children of clergy, in low

circumstances, are in an early age deprived of both parents—then are they orphans indeed! and every distress, every temptation falls upon them with aggravated weight!

To be fathers then, to such fatherless children; to take them by the hand and lead them out, through the snares of the world into some public usefulness in life, that the name and memorial of our dear brethren and faithful pastors, deceased, may not be wholly lost upon earth—I say, to do this, and give some gleam of comfort to the afflicted widows and mothers that survive—must surely be one of the most delightful actions of a benevolent mind; and this, my brethren, is the glorious object of the charity for which we are incorporated, and which we have undertaken to solicit and conduct.

At the conclusion of the sermon, a collection, called in the printed account of the day, "a very generous one," and amounting to £40 10*s.* Pennsylvania money,—equivalent, I believe, to about $140,—was made, we are told, "at the church doors for the benefit of the charity." And the members of the Corporation having continued in church till the congregation was dispersed, went then in a body to wait on the Hon. Governor Penn, with an address of thanks for his having granted them a charter of incorporation; an address similar to that, which, when in New Jersey, they had presented to Governor Franklin. Arriving at the Governor's house, the President, Dr. Peters, by desire and in the name of the Corporation, then presented the following:

May it please your Honor:

We, this Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America, beg leave to take this first opportunity of returning your Honor our most sincere and hearty thanks for having granted us a charter of incorporation, enabling us to prosecute the pious design of the charity which we have undertaken to conduct. We also beg that our grateful acknowledgments may be made known to the Honorable Proprietors of this Province, for their hearty approbation of this design.

And as your Honor has laid us, and the Church of England in general, under an obligation, by your cheerful and ready grant of a charter upon our first application; so we trust that the pious charity for which we are incorporated, will ever enjoy the counte-

nance and protection of all the branches of the Honorable Proprietary family of this Province.

To this address His Honor was pleased to return the following answer:

GENTLEMEN: It gives me a particular pleasure that I have had it in my power to afford you any assistance in the promotion of so pious and charitable a design as that in which you are engaged; and I shall, agreeable to your request, take the earliest opportunity of transmitting your thanks to the proprietors, who, I make no doubt, will, as well as myself, be ready to countenance and protect you in your useful and laudable undertaking.

This proceeding of good manners being ended, the gentlemen present, we are told, "dined together," and being fortified in this way for further effort, proceeded to establish their fundamental laws. They were re-enacted without important change in 1814, and have been often printed. Though not operative in Pennsylvania since 1835, except in the case of a few of the elder of our clergy, with whose decease their operation will finally cease, they deserve some mention in any history of the Corporation; being still, I believe, in substance, the fundamental laws of the Society as existing in New Jersey and New York; and being moreover curious as presenting one of the early schemes of life annuities, and among the very first, I believe, of such annuities on this hemisphere. The eldest Mr. Binney has summed up their character better than I can do it, thus:

They allowed of one mode of contribution only, by annual payments to the Corporation of either eight, sixteen, or twenty-four dollars, at the option of the clergyman contributing; and it stipulated to give relief to his surviving widow and children, and to either if there were not both descriptions of survivors, according to one uniform rule. The clergyman was bound to make his payment regularly in each year during his life, and to make fifteen annual contributions certainly, to entitle his widow and children to the largest rate of relief, namely, if he left a widow only, to an annuity of five-fold the amount of the annual payment during her widowhood, and if she married again, to one-half of the quintuple annuity for her life; if he left both widow

and children, the annuity was divided between them—one-third to the widow, as aforesaid, and two-thirds of it to the children for thirteen years; if he left a widow and one child, the annuity was divided between the widow and child—one-half to the widow, as aforesaid, and the other half to the child for thirteen years; and if he left a child or children and no widow, the child or children took the whole annuity for the term of thirteen years. If the clergyman paid any number less than five annual contributions, his widow and children were entitled only to ten per cent. per annum on the amount of his contributions, for thirteen years; and if he paid five or more, and less than fifteen annual contributions, they were entitled to only half the amount of the full annuity, until the amount of the half retained by the Corporation, added to the five or more payments made by the deceased, without computing interest, should, together, make a sum equal to fifteen annual payments, at which time the full annuity became payable."

Bishop White informs us that great pains were bestowed on the formation of the Society, and "especially in the obtaining of correct principles of calculation, warranted by extensive observation of the duration of lives." To whom was the Society and the science of life insurance indebted for this effort, so far in advance of most on this continent, to ascertain those principles of reversionary payment by which the Society could best and most safely afford its relief?

No effort in such a matter could have been well made at Philadelphia in the year 1769, by such gentlemen as then represented our province in the board of managers, without some consultation with the great "economist and calculator" of his day, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, then our Provincial Agent. His tastes led him to inquiries of this class; and though Dr. Smith had been estranged from him, and charged him, in 1762, with want of truth, and with malignant tempers,* Franklin was not the less, in 1769, in frequent correspondence with some of the citizens of Philadelphia who formed the early members of the Society, and as one of the trustees of the College of Philadelphia, was, to some degree, in associations, probably with Dr. Smith himself. It is remarkable, that in the very

* See Stillé's Memoir of Dr. Smith, pp. 29–30.

year of the Society's incorporation, Dr. Price addressed to Franklin his well-known "Observations on the Expectations of Lives, the Increase of Mankind, the number of Inhabitants of London, and the Influence of Great Towns on Health and Population,"* and that the minutes of 1773, that is to say, of the fourth year after the Society's foundation, show that Dr. Price, at the request of Franklin, had been considering the scheme of annuities of which we are speaking, and gave his judgment apparently upon them. The fact of Franklin's hand, in the original formation of it, seems to be rendered almost certain, by the further fact that Mr. Galloway, a close and confidential friend of Franklin, and eminent as a lawyer of the province, was a member of the committee appointed at the first meeting—the meeting at Burlington—to prepare business for the meeting immediately following at Philadelphia,† where these laws were resolved on, and that in a contemporary printed account of what was done at this last meeting, it is mentioned that "the great attention paid to it by the lay members, the accuracy and care with which all the proposed articles and fundamental rules were examined, digested, and corrected, *especially by gentlemen of the law*, deserve to be held continually in grateful remembrance by the clergy." Dr. Smith's known disesteem of Franklin, and dislike for him, until he was dead, when he preached a funeral discourse upon him, may account for the prominence of Mr. Galloway, Franklin's friend, in the matter, rather than of Franklin himself.

The laws which we are speaking of, having remained in force for nearly seventy years, were superseded in 1835, in the Pennsylvania branch of the Society, by a system essentially different. We speak of the matter hereafter.

With the enactment of its fundamental laws, and payments from twenty-five of the clergy, our Corporation and its useful scheme was fairly established. "Some of the gentlemen who were present," the narrative which we have quoted continues, "had been kind enough to come from thirty to sixty miles distance to make up the requisite majority. The same zeal

* See Observations on Reversionary Payments, by Richard Price. London, 1772.

† See *supra*, p. 19.

would have been shown by the respectable lay members residing at New York, notwithstanding their great distance, if their presence had been absolutely necessary. But it was resolved to spare them as much as possible, till the next year's meeting."

The Society now proceeded to other business.

Application had been made, apparently, in the very incipiency of the scheme, to the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, praying their countenance and assistance in carrying the new design into execution. Their answer, signed by their secretary, the Rev. Dr. Burton, received, apparently, with as little delay as possible, was as follows:

"That, as a mark of their earnest desire to forward so benevolent an undertaking, they willingly charge themselves with an annual contribution of £20 sterling to the scheme, for each of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; that is, £60 sterling per annum in the whole; for which the treasurer of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows, &c., may draw on the treasurer to the Society for Propagating the Gospel, commencing from the time that the charters shall be obtained, and the subscriptions of the clergy themselves take place."

"The thanks due to the venerable Society for such a mark of their goodness and kindness to the Episcopal clergy in these parts," our narrative tells us, were ordered to be properly transmitted to them; and, as appears from the minute-book, they were thus subsequently presented in a letter from the President, Dr. Peters.

To the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts:

We, the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America, beg leave to take this first opportunity of our meeting, to return our most humble and hearty thanks for that singular mark of the Society's benevolence manifested towards the design for which we are incorporated, in their generous resolution of "charging themselves with £60 sterling per annum, for the benefit of the fund."

This truly generous benefaction, together with the ready grants we have obtained of charters in the three Provinces of New

York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and the favorable disposition with which the design has been received among our church members, so far as it hath yet been made known to them, give us the most sanguine hopes of success. What the venerable Society have already done cannot leave us the least doubt of their future concurrence and protection on all just and necessary occasions.

As everything relative to the plan is fully and clearly explained in the sermon and account published by one of our members, agreeable to our direction, and twenty copies of the same are herewith transmitted for the use of the Society, we have only to add our fervent prayers that the blessing of Heaven may ever attend all the pious and indefatigable labors of the Society, for the support of our Church, and the propagation of true Christianity in these remote parts.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Corporation.

RICHARD PETERS,
President.

PHILADELPHIA, November 8th, 1769.

It will be remembered that by the charter of incorporation, the Lords Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Lord Bishop of London, were appointed visitors of the Corporation. The Society now placed themselves in relations by letter with these very reverend dignitaries of the mother Church. The first is to the primate, at that time the Most Reverend Frederick Cornwallis, previously Bishop of Lichfield, but now, recently (1768), on the demise of Archbishop Herring, translated to Canterbury.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE:

After offering our sincere expressions of the satisfaction we feel in common with the members of our Church on this Continent, in finding a prelate of your Grace's excellent and worthy character, called by Providence to supply the great loss which we all sustained by the death of your amiable and illustrious predecessor; permit us to take this first opportunity of praying your Grace's countenance and protection in carrying on the laudable charity for which we are incorporated.

The relation in which we stand towards your Grace, as a superintendent of this charity by the tenor of our charter, is not our principal motive for presenting this address. Your high station as presiding over that Church whereof we are members; your known benevolence, and the pleasure which we are assured you

will feel in every measure that promises to place our Church and ministry on a more advantageous and respectable footing in these Colonies, give us room to hope that our present undertaking will ever meet with your Grace's powerful and ready patronage.

Everything relative to this design being so fully and clearly explained in the sermon and account published by one of our members, agreeably to our orders, and, by him, transmitted to your Grace, we have only to add our sincere and fervent prayers that your Grace's health and usefulness may be long preserved, and that the Church, both in England and in these Colonies, may more and more flourish under your government and direction.

Signed in behalf and by order of the Corporation.

RICHARD PETERS,
President.

PHILADELPHIA, November 8th, 1769.

The minutes of a subsequent meeting record, that Dr. Peters reported to it, that in answer to this address to the Archbishop of Canterbury he had lately received a letter from his Grace, assuring the Corporation that "he was truly sensible of the honor they had done him, and that he will, with pleasure, patronize and promote their charitable undertaking to the best of his power."

An appropriate address was forwarded also to the Archbishop of York, though the minutes do not make mention of any answer received. The address need not be here set out. The particular relation, however, of the clergy in America to the Bishop of London, at this time the Right Reverend Richard Terrick, and the evidence which the minutes present of his Lordship's sense of the obligations resting on him in consequence, make the correspondence between the Society and this prelate more interesting. The letter of the Corporation was thus:

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD, RICHARD,
LORD BISHOP OF LONDON:

The humble address of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America.

We beg your Lordship's permission to embrace this first opportunity of praying your Lordship's patronage and protection of the laudable and charitable design for which we are incorporated.

By the tenor of our charters, the Lords Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London, for the time being, are nominated to superintend the execution of this plan, and to your inspection our annual proceedings are to be submitted.

But our relation to your Lordship, as more immediately presiding over our Church in these Colonies, your known benevolence and paternal regard towards your clergy here, give us room to hope that a design so evidently calculated for the advantage of them and their families, in the present suffering condition of our Church, will meet with your very particular patronage.

Everything relative to the design being fully and clearly explained in the sermon and account published by one of our members agreeable to our orders, and by him transmitted to your Lordship, we have only to add our prayers, that you may long continue an ornament to our Church and the Episcopal character.

Signed in behalf, and by order of the Corporation.

RICHARD PETERS,
President.

PHILADELPHIA, November 8th, 1769.

In due course, the President, Dr. Peters, reported to the Society that, in return to this address, "he had received the following kind answer:"

REVEREND SIR: You will be so good as to communicate to the members of your Corporation at their next meeting the satisfaction I received in the favorable accounts which have been sent me of the establishment of their scheme for the support of the widows and children of the American clergy. As they have done me the honor to nominate me with the two Archbishops, as the superintendents of that charity, I take this occasion to assure the clergy and the rest of the members that in any matter, in which the interest of your Society are concerned, I shall always be happy in giving my advice and assistance. I will only add, that they have my best wishes for the success of a scheme which reflects so much honor upon the promoters of it, and which is so well calculated to relieve the distresses of such objects as more immediately call for their attention and compassion.

The many calls in this part of the world to give a helping hand to charitable designs of various kinds, and more particularly to such as regard the distressed families of the clergy in our several dioceses, make it impossible to extend the same assistance to more remote objects, especially as those in the higher stations of

the Church are the great supporters of that general fund, which is engaged to make an allowance to the three Provinces.

I am, however, willing to add my mite to your fund, and desire your acceptance of twenty pounds, for which you may either draw upon me, or I will pay it upon notice to any person you shall order to receive it. This, I hope, will be accepted as the testimony of my good will to your Society, and expressive of my best wishes for its success.

I am, Reverend Sir, your loving Brother,

RIC. LONDON.

BOND STREET, LONDON, January 25th, 1770.

"This answer from the Bishop of London being read, it was unanimously voted that the President do, in the name of the Corporation, write a letter of thanks to his Lordship for the kind assurance he has given them of his zeal for their success, and for his generous benefaction to their charitable fund." A minute of the next meeting records, that Dr. Peters reported "that he had written a letter of thanks to the Bishop of London, the receipt of which his Lordship has since politely acknowledged."

The record of the year's proceedings, as given in the ancient minutes, thus concludes:

"The business at present before the Board being now finished, the President gave a proof of his generous and exemplary spirit in favor of the charity by informing the Corporation that he had determined on to-morrow morning, to put a bond for two hundred pounds, payable to them, into the hands of Mr. Treasurer Hopkinson.

"*Ordered*, That the most grateful expressions of the sentiments entertained by the Corporation of so affectionate an instance of his benevolent disposition be made to Mr. Peters in the name of his brethren. This cordial acknowledgment was accordingly presented and very modestly received."

So end the proceedings of the year of foundation. Is it any wonder, auspicated as they seem to have been throughout, that the Society should continue in vigor to this day?

The meeting of 1770 was in New York, and the annual sermon was preached by Dr. Auchmuty. The minutes contain the following record of a layman's liberality:

Upon a motion made that a proper seal might be ordered for the Corporation, Mr. Le Roy generously offered to pay the expense of any seal that shall be agreed upon; the price not exceeding ten guineas. And the President, by desire, and in the name of the Corporation, accepted the offer of Mr. Le Roy, and presented him with their sincere thanks for the same.

Mr. Le Roy, Mr. Kempe, Dr. Auchmuty, and Dr. Cooper were appointed a committee to devise and procure the seal. One was accordingly ordered from England.

Thus far the interest taken in the Society by persons not immediately connected with it, seems to have been such as, in part, was to be expected, and in some senses obligatory. We have now, at the meeting of 1770, a letter of a very high interest. It is a spontaneous communication to Dr. Smith, from the Rev. Thomas Wharton, Rector of St. Michael's Church, in Bridgetown, in the island of Barbadoes. The letter of Mr. Wharton, which, as copied into the minutes, seems to be without a date, was thus:

Reverend Sir: My neighbor, Mr. Moore, has favored me with a copy of a plan about to be established for the relief of the distressed widows and children of deceased clergymen in North America, accompanied with a sermon delivered by you at Christ Church, in October, 1769, which carries along with it such persuasive arguments, that I am desirous of offering something more than mere empty praise to so meritorious a design.

It has been my lot for sixteen years past, to be situated in this island, where my way of life has been such as excluded me from entering into the scenes of the busy world. Yet my ideas have been often extended to your unbounded continent, where variety of characters must not only help the advocate to plead, but give a greater scope for the hand of benevolence to unfold itself, than a continued sameness of a small island can afford.

In a heart affected with every distress of its fellow-creatures, the tenderest emotions would naturally arise when the relicts of its brethren were the objects of consideration; and, therefore, I voluntarily solicited such clergy and gentlemen here, as I thought might be willing to contribute to so laudable, so worthy an undertaking. How far my application will be attended with success, by the present conveyance I cannot say, having not yet been able to obtain their united sentiments. My proposal was that a collection should be made, sent, and applied to your general fund,

and such a proposal being still under consideration, prevents your receiving my mite by this opportunity. Should I, by any means, be instrumental in procuring a donation worthy your acceptance, I shall think myself happy; and to be favored with a correspondence from you (which I have taken the liberty to open), will be esteemed an honor by, Reverend Sir,

Your most obedient and respectful humble servant,

THO. WHARTON.

It will readily be believed that the author of such a letter was not unfaithful to his promise. Every expectation rightly excited was more, we must say, than fulfilled. And on the minutes of a subsequent year is entered a second letter to Dr. Smith, signed by Mr. Wharton and Henry Duke, Esq., as follows:

BARBADOES, May 23d, 1772.

REVEREND SIR: We have a pleasure in remitting to you the collections in our island, by the hands of Mr. Gilbert, for the use of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America, amounting to the sum of one hundred and ninety pounds, nine shillings, and eight pence half-penny, sterling money of Great Britain. Some small sums remain uncollected of the subscriptions of our friends, which we will endeavor to get in and send you by the most convenient opportunity. If our wishes could have met with adequate success, the amount would have been considerably larger. But when you call to mind the calamities which this island hath suffered from dreadful fires, and still labors under from unfavorable weather, we flatter ourselves we shall be thought, in some degree, to have shown a friendly inclination towards our brethren in America, although our encouragement of your laudable scheme is not answerable to our own desires. We are, with great respect, &c.,

HENRY DUKE,
THOS. WHARTON.

So considerable a benefaction from givers so cheerful, and on whom so little claim existed, we may well believe was received with more than usual gratitude. The minutes make this record:

"*Agreed*, That the President do, in behalf of the Corporation,

write a letter to Mr. Duke and Mr. Wharton, thanking them and the other worthy contributors for this very considerable benefaction; and that the *list of the contributors be entered on the minutes of this Corporation, which is as follows:"*

Three blank pages on the minute-book immediately follow this entry. They present no list of contributors; nor anything but an ancient instance of a more ancient proverb. Delays in this case proved more than dangerous. The names of the contributors are probably lost to us here forever. Our consolation must be as holy Fuller, the Church historian's was in regard to those men whose names, even his faithful labors could not discover, by whom the light of Christianity was kindled in the land of his birth. "The best of it is," he says, "that God's record is more complete than man's best history; and that their names are written in the Book of Life, who on earth are wholly forgotten."*

The meeting of 1771 was in New Jersey, Perth Amboy being selected as its particular place, and Dr. Chandler preaching the annual sermon prescribed. Governor Colden, of New York, had now given place to Governor Tryon. The minutes thus record the fact, with the action of the Corporation upon it.

Dr. Smith, Dr. Auchmuty, and Dr. Chandler were appointed a committee to draw up immediately a proper address to his Excellency Governor Tryon, congratulating him upon his safe arrival in his government, and acquainting him that the Corporation had done themselves the honor of choosing his Excellency a member. They accordingly produced the following, which was approved and ordered to be signed by the President, and to be presented by as many of the members at New York as shall be able to attend on the occasion.

To his Excellency William Tryon, Esq., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Province of New York, and the Territories depending thereon in America, Chancellor, and Vice Admiral of the same.

The humble address of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the

* Quoted in Southey's Book of the Church, vol. i, p. 15. Boston, 1825.

Church of England in America, met at Perth Amboy, October 3d, 1771.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We take this first opportunity to congratulate your Exeellency on your safe arrival in your government, and to beg your acceptance of our best wishes and sincere prayers, that your administration may be attended with satisfaction to yourself, and all that happiness to the Province whieh is justly expected from your amiable character and known abilities.

We have at this meeting done ourselves the honor of unanimously choosing your Excellency a member of our Corporation, and we hope the good and charitable purposes for whieh it is instituted will not only induce you to accept a share in the management of the trust committed to us, but likewise to afford us your protection and countenance in carrying it into execution.

The address was doubtless presented, but the minutes of the next year make no record of the fact.

In 1772, the meeting being for this year in Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, a similar proceeding took place in regard to "the Honorable Richard Penn, Esquire, Governor of Pennsylvania, who was unanimously elected a member of the Corporation."

His Honor being waited upon, as the minute-book here records, informed the committee that he would receive their address the next day "at half an hour after two o'clock," and though apparently from the minutes of the next day being left uncompleted, no mention is made of the interview, the reception, congratulation, and thanks were doubtless all proceeded in and accomplished.

Such, within four years of the Declaration of Independence, in these States of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, where the spiritual stands now so independent, was the relation of the Church to powers temporal. It proves, perhaps, how reluctantly in many cases the good people of these Colonies acknowledged the causes which "impelled them to the separation."

The records of 1772, at Philadelphia, present no event of interest. Some little incidents are quaintly thus recorded:

The Corporation proceeded to Christ Church, and as the Rev.

Dr. Cooper, President of King's College in New York, whose turn it was to preach, could not attend, the annual sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Peters, Rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia, and a liberal collection made for the charity.

After sermon, Mr. Hopkinson, one of the treasurers, acquainted the Corporation that Richard Hockley, Esq., one of the members, had generously subscribed five pounds per annum, Pennsylvania money, during his natural life, for the benefit of the fund, for which the Corporation requested him to accept their sincere thanks.

As Dr. Cooper, whose turn it was to preach at this meeting, could not attend:

Agreed, That he has not thereby lapsed his turn, and that he be prepared to preach at the next annual meeting.

Agreed, That the thanks of this Corporation be given to their worthy President, for his sermon preached this day before them, at which £120 3*s*. 4*d*. was collected.

The minutes of 1773 record in a style of similar simplicity an evidence of the ever ready service of the venerable President. They tell us that "as the Rev. Mr. Reading, missionary at Apoquiniminck, in Pennsylvania, who had undertaken to preach the annual sermon, was prevented from attending by a sudden and severe indisposition, the Rev. Dr. Peters, in this necessity, was pleased to preach the same sermon which he had preached (but not printed) the former year at Philadelphia;" and a handsome collection was made in the church.

By whatever person—whether by Dr. Franklin, or by some other man less disposed to such studies—the scheme of annual payments and annuities was settled, and whether it was or was not settled on a true estimate of the rates of life and death, it is certain that the managers of the Corporation from its origin did not trust to the payments made by persons contracting with it, to make good the promised annuities. A "sermon suitable to the occasion," to be preached at each annual meeting, was a matter meant to be fixed, as we have seen, as a permanent arrangement at the first meeting held by the Society; and a collection seems to have always followed as of course. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, as we have also seen, was early solicited for aid. On the reception of Mr. Wharton's first letter from Barbadoes, Dr. Chand-

ler and Mr. Seabury, a committee appointed to thank him specially, were directed also to write "a general letter to several other clergymen of Barbadoes, soliciting *their* concurrence with the kind and generous proposal of Mr. Wharton in favor of the charity." In 1772, it is "recommended to the clergy, who are members of this Corporation, to take all convenient opportunities in their respective parishes, both publicly and privately, to solicit benefactions to this charitable institution." And in 1774, with obvious perception, even at that early day, of the shadows which coming events were casting before them, we find the founders of the Corporation, while acknowledging a gift of £13 10*s.* from John Dickinson, Esq., of £6 from Dr. Alexander Ross, of Jamaica, of £20 from the Hon. James Hamilton, of Pennsylvania, and of £5 from Mr. James Nixon, endeavoring to place its beneficent purpose upon a base of less varying and of more enduring strength, by an endowment of land from the Crown. The minutes of October, in that year, contain the following entry:

Resolved, That this Corporation ought humbly to solicit a grant of a quantity of land from His Majesty, for the further support of this charitable institution; that they think such grant could be advantageously located in Canada, on the far side of the Ohio, near or adjoining the western boundary of Pennsylvania, and that the following gentlemen, viz.,

The Right Honorable the Earl of Sterling, the Honorable Mr. Chief Justice Smith, and the Rev. Dr. Chandler, of New Jersey; Goldsborough Banyar and James Duane, Esqs., with the Rev. Dr. Auchmuty, of New York; and the Hon. James Hamilton and Benjamin Chew, Esq., with the Rev. Dr. Smith, of Pennsylvania,

Be and they are hereby nominated a committee, with powers to locate the lands, determine the proper quantity to be prayed for, and also to prepare and send home the petition, at such time as they may think proper. *And it is the opinion of this board that such application should be speedily made.*

Whether the application was "speedily made" or not, the minutes do not show us. If it was not so made, it was probably not made at all. Discontents were becoming widely spread throughout the Colonies. The Revolution was soon upon us. The Church of England, and the missionaries which it sent

us, were associated largely with England herself, and came in for a share of the odium merited by her rulers. Many of the missionaries, abandoning the country, returned to the mother country, and the Society for the relief of their widows and children seemed to be in process of extinction, by the failure alike of all the conditions and all the necessities for which it had been incorporated.

There was no meeting subsequently to 1775. The contributors, who in 1771 numbered twenty-seven, had by October, 1775, decreased, if an entry of payments on the minutes represents them all, to four. One of the treasurers, Dr. Chandler, remained faithful to Great Britain, and retired from this country. And it is a curious incident in our history, that the earliest president of the Society, its faithful friend and very liberal benefactor, Dr. Peters, died, six days after the Declaration of Independence was read from the steps of the State House. After the minutes of the meeting of 1774—whose proceedings seem to have been more than usually full, and to have been also very fully recorded (both proceedings and record, as if in anticipation of events which might leave no actor in the meeting to tell to succeeding times what had been done there)—we find in the minute-book a short and expressive entry:

> The minutes of the proceedings of the Corporation for the year 1775 have been lost in the confusion of the war, which commenced in that year. During the war the Corporation did not meet.

The whole Corporation stock in October, 1774, was, in Pennsylvania currency, £2572 12*s.* 10*d.*; that is to say in their own, or some other currency, not all of it Pennsylvanian—

For Pennsylvania, ...	£1411 6. 10.
For New York, ...	1006 7. 8¾.
For New Jersey, ...	232 6. 8.

So ends the pre-revolutionary history of the Corporation. For nearly ten years—during parts of which the British army was in the possession of New York, Philadelphia, and of many parts of New Jersey—the Corporation was without any

corporate head, and, as respected the State of New Jersey, without a treasurer. It lay, indeed, through the whole war, in a state so latent and inactive, that but for three or four persons it might have been regarded as in a state more of death than of dormancy.

II. POST-REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY.

1. *Before the Division.*

With the return of peace, and the acknowledgment of our independence by Great Britain, the thoughts of a few clergy members of the Corporation, who had remained upon this continent, were directed to the resuscitation and reorganization of the body.

The members of the clergy, who till the war, or shortly prior to it, had taken an interest in the Corporation, were numerous. At the meeting of October 3d, 1773, there were present of them, Dr. Peters, Dr. Smith, Dr. Auchmuty, Dr. Chandler, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Ogilvie, Mr. Craig, Mr. Seabury, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Duché, Mr. Cutting, Mr. Beach, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Sayre, Mr. Bloomer, Mr. Provoost, Mr. Coombe, Mr. White, Mr. Ayres. And at that meeting Mr. William Stringer and Mr. Robert Blackwell were chosen members. In previous records we find, in addition, the names of Mr. Charlton, Mr. Reading, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Preston, Mr. Browne, Mr. Magaw, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Frazer; twenty-nine clergy in all of the Church of England, belonging to one or other of the three States; and being, I suppose, most of the clergy of the Church of England in them.

Of all these, full two-thirds disappear from the records in the revolutionary term; and I suppose that the year 1784 probably found few alive, and on this hemisphere, other than Dr. Smith, Dr. White, Dr. Blackwell, Dr. Magaw, Dr. Provoost, Dr. Beach, Dr. Andrews, Mr. Cutting, Mr. Bloomer, and Mr. Frazer.

The first action by members of the Society towards re-establishing it, after the peace, was a meeting, in consequence of prior correspondence, by a few clergymen of the three States, at Brunswick, in New Jersey, on the 13th and 14th of

May, 1784.* Here it was determined to procure a larger meeting on the 5th of the ensuing October, at New York.

At the meeting, reassembled in New York, "on the Tuesday of October proposed, being," as the minutes note, "the first Tuesday after the feast of St. Michael," and as they further mention, "a meeting of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Clergymen of the *Church of England* in Ameriea," the work of re-establishment was largely proceeded in. The late president, Dr. Peters, having died July 10th, 1776, and "it being now proposed to appoint a chairman to open the business, the Rev. Dr. Smith was ehosen for that purpose." The Rev. Benjamin Moore, afterwards the venerable Bishop Moore, of New York, aeted as the seeretary. The first thing was the appointment of a committee of three clerical and three lay members—Drs. Smith, White, and Provoost, being appointed from the former, and Messrs. Duane, Peters, and Livingston, from the latter—"to examine into the affairs of this Corporation since the last meeting at Philadelphia, on Tuesday after the feast of St. Michael, in the year 1775, and to report thereon as soon as may be." Having adjourned to attend divine serviee, at St. Paul's Church, New York, on Wednesday the 6th, where the annual sermon was preached by Dr. Magaw, the Reetor of St. Paul's Chureh, Philadelphia, the meeting was reassembled on the 8th, the committee being ready to report.

The minutes now tell us that the Hon. Mr. Duane, in behalf of the committee, then submitted the following, "its observations and advice."

That it is expedient that the objections whieh might be made, on account of the non-user of the powers granted by the eharter, be removed.

That the respeetive Legislatures of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania be applied to for this purpose.

That the last clause of the charter shall be so far altered as, instead of subjeeting the accounts and proceedings of the Corporation to the revisal and ratification therein specified, the same aecounts and proceedings shall hereafter be revised, cheeked, and confirmed in the manner expressed in the said eharter by the

* Bishop White's Memoirs, 2d ed., p. 21.

Governor, Chancellor, and Chief Justice of the State of New York, or any two of them; and by the Governor, or President, the Chief Justice, and the Attorney-General of the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey respectively, or by any two of them. And that the title of the Corporation shall be altered as follows: "*The Corporation for the Relief of Widows and Children of Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.*"

And, also, that the following clause in the proviso of the said charter be annulled or repealed, viz.: "And not contrary to the laws of that part of Great Britain called England."

That committees be appointed for each of the said three States, with power to represent and act for this Corporation in the premises.

That in full confidence that the benevolent design for which this Corporation was instituted will be encouraged by the said Legislatures, this Corporation ought to proceed to the election of the usual and necessary officers for conducting their business, as well as of members for filling up vacancies. And also to examine into the state of their funds, and all other matters which require immediate attention.

The Corporation now proceeded to ballot for twenty-nine new members. Their names appear upon the roll of corporators at the end of this tract, under the date of 1784. It is interesting to note the names of General Alexander Hamilton, then in his 27th year, and of John Jay, among those from New York, and of both Robert and Gouverneur Morris among those from Pennsylvania. Officers were also elected; Dr. Smith, now venerable for his years and deserving such honor from his long and great service to the Society, was appointed president; and the Rev. Benjamin Moore, already mentioned, secretary. The treasurers were, *for New York*, John Alsop; *for New Jersey*, Joshua Maddox Wallace; and *for Pennsylvania*, Samuel Powel, this last reappointed. Standing committees of correspondence, and for obtaining an alteration and confirmation of the charter, were also elected; Dr. White, and Mr. Peters, *for Pennsylvania;* Messrs. John Stevens and J. M. Wallace, *for New Jersey;* and Messrs. Duane, Robert R. Livingston, with the Rev. Mr. Provost, *for New York;* the first and second named gentlemen in regard to the charter, and the first and third as a standing committee.

The assets of the Society were found in different degrees of soundness in the different States. Those in Pennsylvania, which had been under the care of Samuel Powel, Esq., were solid and forthcoming. Mr. Powel reported in 1786, that since the 4th of October, 1775, he had

Paid away, on account of the Corporation, the sum of .	£1359. 5. 6.
And had received, ...	1354. 4. 2.
Balance in favor of the Treasury, ...	£5. 1. 4

And that the total amount of the Corporation's stock in Pennsylvania, including mortgages, was £2795 10*s.* 6*d.* Claiming the fulfilment of a promise made to him at some former meetings, for leave to resign his office, he was discharged from the trust after thirteen years' service—from 1773 to 1786—"with the thanks of the Corporation for his fidelity, accuracy, and attention to the interests of the institution under circumstances of peculiar difficulty."

The fund in New York was in a condition not quite so satisfactory, and the treasurer for that State and the Corporation seem not to have been wholly in accord as to the amount for which the former was responsible; a question of interest, complicated with some matter arising from Continental paper, apparently having been the points of difference. A proposition of the treasurer, however, made apparently in 1785, that he should give landed security for £1237 10*s.* 7¾*d.* *specie* principal, with interest in future, was accepted by the Corporation, and the sum above named may be taken, therefore, as the property of the Corporation in New York.

With the retirement "beyond seas," as it is called in the minutes, of Dr. Chandler, the whole fund (£232 6*s.* 8*d.*) existing for New Jersey, in 1777, was lost.

At the close of the Revolution, the aggregated funds of the Corporation may be stated with sufficient nearness to have consisted of the

Fund in Pennsylvania, ...	£2795 10. 6.
" New York, ...	1237 10. 7¾.
" New Jersey; moneys received from 1775 to 1784, from the Rev. Mr. Blackwell, Frazer, Beach, and Odell, subscribers for that State, ...	18. 14. 3.

With this capital surviving the shock of the Revolution,

the Corporation renewed its meetings, its annual sermons, and its business; Dr. Smith, after the adjournment of the meeting at New York, remaining behind in that city to preach there on the following Sunday, both morning and afternoon, which he did with so good effect as to have added £112 19*s.* 10*d.* to the corporate moneys. The next meeting was fixed for Trenton, but the minutes of 1785 inform us that owing to the bad weather and other incidents, the members could not be assembled in sufficient numbers to do business, and that certain of the members who met in Philadelphia, sent some of those present to Trenton to procure an adjournment, to meet on the 20th of June in the next year at Philadelphia, and that those who met at Trenton adjourned accordingly. The meeting of 1786 was so held; and among its agreeable incidents, and valuable as evidence that even in the shock of arms, the Society had not perished from the recollections of its generous friends, was the announcement by the Rev. Dr. Moore, that Mr. James De Blez, of New York, had bequeathed to the Corporation a no less sum than £400.

With the return of peace, the obligations of the Corporation to its various subscribers, several of whom had died since the last meeting in 1775, and whose families stood therefore in special relations to the body, made matter of some difficulty. How far the loyalist clergy, who abandoned the country, and had died in England, were to be regarded on the same footing as those who followed the fortunes of the Colonies, and withstood invading arms—how far and on whom the cesser of payments for ten years should operate to destroy prior rights, or how far and for whom the penalties of forfeiture were suspended by the war, these, and many questions of difficulty, both in the principles and details of computing the annuities, may have naturally embarrassed the respective treasurers. A committee, composed of the Rev. Drs. Smith and White, from the clergy, and of Messrs. Wilcocks, Wallace, and Chaloner, from the laity, was appointed to settle the annuities, and, on their report, it was

Resolved, That the respective treasurers be instructed to settle with the several annuitants who are entitled to relief from the funds of this Corporation, according to the tenor and intent of the fundamental articles.

That is to say, that they shall pay, as soon as they shall be enabled, their respective annuities, according to the classes to which they belong, or to such as shall demand the same, deducting such forfeitures as may have been incurred by the respective subscribers.

But, whereas, the general calamities of war have prevented the subscribers from making any payments after the Tuesday immediately preceding the feast of St. Michael, in the year 1776, it is

Resolved, That no fines or forfeitures shall be deemed to have been incurred after that time, or be deducted from the annuities due.

The matter being one of contract, where the war had but suspended remedies, and not annulled the obligation, no distinction appears to have been made between the families of the loyalist clergy, and those who adhered to the Colonies. And in the following year, at a meeting composed of men, most of whose names are found in the early councils of the Church in America, the continuing identity of the Church in England with the Church in America would appear to have been recognized in a resolution somewhat striking, thus:

That an address be made to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, soliciting the payment of the arrearages of their annual contribution to this Corporation, with which they generously charged themselves. The committee appointed for this purpose is the Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Dr. White, and B. Chew, Esq.

It would be interesting, to see the address directed, if any was ever made, and the response to it. In point of fact, no payment, I believe, was made after 1775 or 1776; and the Society would, perhaps, have found an apology for not paying the "arrearages" solicited, in a declaration supposed to come from the pen of Dr. Smith himself, and published in 1789, in the preface to our Book of Common Prayer, that "when, in the course of Divine Providence, these American States became independent, with respect to civil government, their ecclesiastial independence was *necessarily* included;" a position true, it may be admitted, in view of the union of the Church in England with the civil government there; but a position which, independently of that fact, the petition of

the Corporation would indicate as being open to some question; a question not perhaps unreasonable in a church one and catholic.

The year 1789 is to be signalized by the retirement of Dr. Smith from the presidency of the Corporation. He had been, as I suppose, more than any one else, its author; he had certainly been for twenty years one of its most active and efficient friends; alike in labors of the pen, of the pulpit, of his providence, and his personal agency. The minutes now record that he informed the Corporation that he wished, on account of his advanced age, to decline the honor of being continued their president. The thanks of the Corporation were given to him for his long and faithful services as president; and the Rev. Dr. White, who had been a member of the Society since 1772, and had now recently been consecrated to the episcopate, was elected to the place.

In the same year, the Corporation had the gratification of receiving, by bequest, from Andrew Doz, one of its members, the largest sum ever received from one individual. He left his property, on the death of his wife and widowed daughter, and, as it is recorded by the latter, "with their entire approbation," almost wholly to institutions of the Church; one-seventh part of his estate, this share, producing so far as can be ascertained, about $4000,* coming to the Society.

The Corporation continued its annual meetings through the years 1790 and 1791. At the meeting of the former year, we find Hamilton, at that time Secretary of the Treasury, but whom neither the vast cares of his immediate office, nor his devotion to the interests of the state at large, rendered indifferent to this cause of private beneficence, consulting with White and Provoost upon the wisdom of a change in a fundamental rule of the Corporation, suggested, we are told, "on account of the calamities of the late war." In any such council, we may believe that the voice of the first secretary was potential. The member of the body who records his presence and his action was the excellent Benjamin Moore, D.D., then and long secretary of the Corporation; no stranger to his sincerity in all things, or to his interest in what con-

* Mr. Binney's Preface, p. 8.

cerned the ministers of religion, when summoned, fourteen years afterwards, a bishop of the Church, to the bedside of the expiring patriot, there to administer to him a sacrament of the Church, and to receive from his lips, amidst the agony of a mortal wound, the solemn assurance that he had "*no* ill will" against the man who sought and took his life; and that "he forgave *all* that had happened."

The minutes of this year, 1791, tell us that the meeting was at Trenton, and after making mention of the election of officers, that

> The Corporation then proceeded to the church, where a sermon highly suitable to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Dr. Blackwell to a number of the respectable inhabitants of Trenton, and its vicinity. The collection was £7 12*s.* 7*d.*

This, I believe, was the last sermon preached before the Society, and the last collection made in its behalf.

From 1791 to 1796, the minutes record no meetings, except one in 1793, and for several years, up to 1813, there were many interruptions of them. Without doubt, the frequent journeyings of the members, performed by some of them most faithfully to Philadelphia, New York, and to different towns in New Jersey—Burlington, Trenton, New Brunswick, Elizabethtown, and Perth Amboy—for, in all these towns the corporators at different times assembled,—must have been found greatly laborious, accomplished as they were before the days of either steamboats or railways, and when the transport was to be made across the arid sands of New Jersey, either in the common stage, or the less expeditious private carriage of the owner; the only variation to such a conveyance being by the "periaguas" of that day on water at the extremities of the road, and where storms and calms were as frequent as the more grateful zephyrs. The aggregation of the Society had been made in the days of the Church's infancy and feebleness on this continent. With bishops of its own, and with increasing strength, a separation and independent action was better. The minutes of May, 1796, accordingly disclose to us, that at a meeting held in Trenton, it was the opinion of the members present that three distinct corporations ought to be formed; one for each of the three

States. And a separation was then resolved on, with a division of funds on these principles:

1. That an estimate should be made of all moneys contributed in the States respectively, whether by subscription or donation.

2. That an estimate should be made of all moneys contributed by corporations, or by individuals not residing in any of the three States.

3. That an exact statement of the funds of the present Corporation should be made, from which it might be ascertained how far they fell short of the sums which had been received.

4. That a new fund should be raised in each State by a demand on the present aggregate fund, in a ratio compounded of a right to one-third of what should appear on Article 2, and to a share in what should appear on Article 1, proportioned to the moneys which had been contributed in each State, whether by subscription or by donation.

Under these resolutions, a committee, of whom the acting members were Bishop White and Dr. Blackwell, for Pennsylvania, Dr. Beach, for New York, and Mr. Joshua Maddox Wallace, for New Jersey, was appointed to effect the division of the corporate funds on the foregoing plan. They found, on the 27th November, 1806, that the whole fund consisted of $26,485, and that there would be to be assigned

To the separate corporation in New York, ...	$11,806
" " " Pennsylvania, . . .	10,390
" " " New Jersey, ...	4,289
	$26,485

And the Legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, having created new corporations in their States respectively,* consisting of the members of the aggregate Corporation resident in those States, to whom the powers and duties of the aggregate corporations were transferred, to be exercised within their respective States, the several portions of the fund, after many negotiations, made necessary chiefly in consequence of the variety of details to be attended to, were paid to them respectively; provision being made for the rights of existing contractors with the Corporation, who, in whichever State they happened to be, had, of course, a claim

* The Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania was passed 28th March, 1797.

on the whole fund. Upon this transfer, the principal actors in the events by which the division was accomplished, prepared and executed with solemnity, a paper which was intended as a perpetual record and counsel. It thus declares:

PHILADELPHIA, November 27th, 1806.

We, the subscribers, having this day ratified a plan of division of the fund of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, embrace the opportunity of recording our unanimous opinion, intending to deliver the same to the members of the said Corporation in the States in which we respectively reside, that it will be incumbent on the contemplated corporations in the distinct States to continue their respective funds on the general principles on which the aggregate fund was established, and especially to keep in view the principle that contributions duly paid agreeably to the fundamental laws, are the price of the purchase of an annuity, *which should be rendered as secure as the nature of human affairs will permit*, and that in regard not only to former but also to future contributors, the aggregate Corporation having pledged themselves, and as far as they could, their successors, to that effect.

WM. WHITE,
ABM. BEACH,
ROBERT BLACKWELL,
J. M. WALLACE.

To an unswerving adherence through a term of sixty-three years to the counsel thus given so impressively, that the engagements of the Society to those who contract with it, "*should be rendered as secure as the nature of human affairs will permit*, and that in regard not only to former, but to future contributors," the Society in Pennsylvania owes the vast wealth and great strength that now distinguishes it. All the investments have been such, and such only, as the law of the State allows those who stand in the responsible position of TRUSTEES to make; real securities, or government, state, and city stocks; and the result has been that while distributing with justice and munificence alike, its gains have been constant, and its losses nothing.

But the division had been, by no means, universally liked. Indeed, it required no less than ten years to accomplish it,

even in its main forms. *Tantæ molis erat!* And numerous matters of exaet law and form remained to be attended to. With the same regard to the future as for the present, whieh seems throughout the eentury to have charaeterized the proeeedings of the body, especially in regard to matters of property and title, Teneh Coxe, Esq., at a meeting of December, 1811, offered a resolution, which the minutes tell us was unanimously adopted, viz.:

Whereas, The Pennsylvania members of the Corporation now legally convened, are of opinion that it will be expedient to complete, confirm, and ratify the division of the funds of the general Corporation, and the arrangement proposed, or settled on and by the Rt. Rev. Dr. White, Rev. Dr. Blackwell, Rev. Dr. Beach, and Joshua Maddox Wallace, Esq., at Philadelphia, on the 27th day of November, 1806, and to cause the seal of the general Corporation to be broken, they do hereby accept, assent to, eoncur in, confirm, and finally ratify the said arrangement and division of the funds, and authorize the breaking of the great seal of the general Corporation by the Rt. Rev. Dr. White, who holds the same at this time.

Resolved, also, That in order to the eorrect and valid completion of the measures referred to in the above resolution, William Meredith and John B. Wallaee, Esqs., be requested to prepare draughts of such acts or instruments as may be necessary to the legal and regular execution and settlement of the same.

Resolved, That the Rt. Rev. Dr. White and the Rev. Dr. Blackwell be appointed a committee to communicate the foregoing resolutions to the above-named gentlemen.

The drafts of proper instruments were prepared in form. To the professional reader they have interest as exhibiting the mode of resolving one old corporation into three new forms of existence, a matter which had proved diffieult of sueeessful eonclusion. They eonfirmed the proceedings of the members who met at Trenton in May, 1796, and the aets of the eommittee at Philadelphia, on the 27th November, 1806, and the separation, apportionment, and division of the aggregate funds, and they approved of the ereation of the three new corporations, and of the payments made. Eaeh member severally released and acquitted each and every other from all elaim and responsibility for any matter in the premises, and

each declared his assent and agreement to the dissolution of the aggregate Corporation, and directed that its common seal might be affixed by the president to the presents. And they thereupon surrendered up all rights under the old Corporation, and declared that thenceforth it should cease.

The draft being engrossed, was signed by twenty-four members of the Corporation, and subsequently sealed with the common seal; the last use to which that seal, which the generosity of Mr. Le Roy had provided for in the year 1770, and whose legend and devices its liberal donor, with Mr. Kempe, Dr. Auchmuty, and Dr. Cooper, were then appointed to prescribe, was ever applied. The seal being affixed to an instrument of dissolution, it was afterwards solemnly broken by the Rt. Rev. Dr. William White, president of the Corporation.

So ended the formal existence of the ancient Corporation of the Colonies and of the revolutionary epoch. The names of the twenty-four who signed the act of dissolution, comprised with the Rev. John Campbell, of Pennsylvania, and a very few others, perhaps, of New York and New Jersey, all the surviving members of that day. They had been faithful guardians of their trust, and now delivered it up strengthened and enriched for much greater usefulness than when they had received it. As we have given the names of those by whom, in its first meeting, the Society was constituted, so we may properly record as a way-mark in our history the names of these last. They were:

For Pennsylvania.

The Rt. Rev. William White, D.D.
The Rev. Robert Blackwell, D.D.
" Joseph Pilmore, D.D.
" James Abercrombie, D D.
" Joseph Hutchins.
" Joseph Clarkson.
Edward Tilghman, Esq.
The Hon. Richard Peters.
" John D. Coxe.
Gen. Francis Gurney.
Matthew Clarkson, Esq.
Tench Coxe, Esq.
James Ash, Esq.
Benjamin Smith Barton, M.D.

For New York.

The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Moore, D.D.
" " Saml. Provoost, D.D.
The Rev. Abraham Beach, D.D.
Richard Channing Moore, D.D.
The Rev. William Hammel.

For New Jersey.

The Rev. Charles Henry Wharton, D.D.
Joshua Maddox Wallace, Esq.
William Coxe, Esq.

Every one of the founders of the Society had departed from among the living within the forty years which now made the term of the Society's existence.

But while this ends the legal and formal history of the old Corporation, this ends not its actual history. Its spirit and objects remained, yet do remain, and we may hope will always endure. In fact, as distinguished from law, the old Corporation did but divide itself into its three elemental parts; each now of itself entire, vigorous, and independent.

Of the new Corporations in New York and New Jersey I must leave others to give an account; but I believe that I am correct in saying that they both continue to exist, and to exist with beneficence to the families of the clergy in both States.

2. *After the Division.*

In Pennsylvania, the old Corporation being dissolved, the not very numerous members of it who were of years and vigor to take interest in its objects, assembled. One of their early acts was the addition of eight new members to their body; and the minutes of "the first annual meeting of the Corporation for the Relief of Widows and Children of Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of *Pennsylvania*," held in Philadelphia on the 7th of June, 1814, records the names of all the corporators alive at that day, and participating in the new administration, the older ones, and the recently elected.*

The fundamental laws of 1769 were retained with some slight alterations. The day of annual meeting was changed from "the first Tuesday after the feast of St. Michael"

* They were OF THE CLERGY, the venerable Bishop White and Dr. Blackwell, these two the only ante-revolutionary members of the old Corporation, the Rev. Joseph Hutchins, D.D., the Rev. John Campbell, the Rev. Joseph Pilmore, D.D., the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, the Rev. James Abercrombie, D.D., the Rev. Joseph H. Turner, the Rev. Frederick Beasley, the Rev. James Wiltbank, the Rev. Jaekson Kemper, and the Rev. Jchu Curtis Clay. OF THE LAITY, the Hon. Richard Peters and Jasper Yeates, Edward Tilghman, Tench Coxe, and James Ash, Esqs., Gen. Francis Gurney, John D. Coxe, and William Barton, Esqs., Benjamin S. Barton, M.D., William Milnor, William Meredith, and John B. Wallace, Esqs. The last five of the clergy, and the last three of the laity being new elections and the first in the new body. The others, of both orders, had been members of the old Corporation.

to "the second Tuesday after Whit Sunday;" the new day itself being soon after changed to the "first Tuesday in May," which it still continues to be. It was made one of the laws relating to business that "the Bishop," he being a member of the Corporation, should be its president, and that there should be a Standing Committee of three, the duties of which were prescribed.

The Rev. Dr. Blackwell, elected a member in 1773, and now advancing in years, declining re-election to the office of treasurer, which he had filled for Pennsylvania in the old Corporation since 1803, Mr. Thomas Hale was elected a member, and soon after elected also to the place of treasurer, the thanks of the Corporation being given to Dr. Blackwell "for his long-continued services and for his careful preservation of the funds of the Corporation during the long intermission of its meeting."*

The Rev. Jackson Kemper was elected secretary. Messrs. William Meredith, John B. Wallace, and Thomas Cumpston, the last a recent member, were elected the standing committee. The secretary was instructed to give notice of the revival of the Corporation to every clergyman in this State, and to send them copies of the charter; and a question arising "with regard to claims of different descriptions which *may* be made upon *this* Corporation," the business was referred to the standing committee to report thereon. The same committee was ordered to procure a seal.

Thus was the new Corporation completely organized, and its meetings appear to have been held with entire regularity from that day to this.

Beyond the fact of a bequest ($100) from the Honorable William Tilghman, for more than twenty years the revered Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and whose "private life," we

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* Dr. Blackwell's services as treasurer were, in fact, but a continuation of earlier services, equally valuable, as a member only. And as late as 1828, the venerable Bishop White, in an address to the Convention, speaks of the assistance which that "reverend brother, then present," and who had been his co-worker in the Society for fifty-six years, had rendered him "after the shock received by the fund from the currency at the Revolutionary War, not only in reorganizing the Society, but also in rescuing the remnant of the fund from the further danger into which it had fallen."

are told by one who knew him best, "was the reflection of an unclouded mind, and of a conscience void of offence," and whose interest in what concerned the Church is testified to by a fact recorded by the same high authority, "that the United Churches rarely missed him from their vestry as the warden of his venerable friend and pastor, Bishop White,"* the affairs of the Society now, until 1833, present little not in a course of mere business and of a character essentially private. The funds of the Corporation were carefully guarded by Mr. Hale, and increasing considerably, very large additions were made to the annuities paid under the fundamental laws.

Still, however, it was observed that the clergy of Pennsylvania, whether young or old, and whether in good health or the reverse of it, scarcely availed themselves at all, though often urged to avail themselves, of the advantages offered by this Society to their families in case of their own death.† And while the funds had now increased to near $50,000, and were yielding an income of over $2500, it was a fact that if every contributor should have then died at once and his wife have become an immediate annuitant, it would not have required more than one-third of the income of the solidly invested capital to meet all their demands. This seemed an undesirable condition of things. But, on the other hand, was it desirable, as respected the Society itself, that, with the fundamental laws as then existing, the clergy should universally, and however numerous, become claimants upon it? Was it certain that if thus resorted to, the Society, under those laws, would be able to pay the annuities contemplated by the scheme? Those laws (being the same, with slight alterations, under which the Society was still acting) had been made in the middle of the last century, and more or less after the model of schemes then recently organized in Great Britain; schemes nearly all of which Dr. Price, an authority, as we have signified, on such subjects, had long ago declared were illusory, and which our American author, Gordon, asserted

* An eulogium upon the Hon. William Tilghman, late Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, by Horace Binney. Philadelphia, 1827.

† See the constant appeals of Bishop White to his clergy as given in Mr. Binney's Preface.

in 1772, "unless speedily regulated would be productive of much disappointment and calamity;" opinions verified in many instances by results. The opinion of Dr. Price to a similar effect as regards these very laws had come down to the members of the Society by tradition from the year 1769. In this view of opposing difficulties—the difficulty, to wit, on the one hand, that the clergy profited but imperfectly of what might be a great benefit to them, and on the other, that if they did profit of it universally and in great numbers, and through continuous years, under its then existing rules, disaster might ensue to the corporation—the Society deemed it proper, after the recommendation of the Diocesan Convention of 1833, to take into consideration the matter of a revision of the laws. The subject was referred to a committee, of which the Hon. Horace Binney, who had been elected a member in 1831, was chairman, and the minutes contain a report obviously from his pen. It is full of wisdom in relation to the subject generally, and the more deserving extract since the old laws of 1769 and 1813 still remain, it is supposed, of force in two of the three States where they originally prevailed. We can offer here but portions. Remarking upon the fundamental laws themselves, Mr. Binney observes:

Upon an examination of the fundamental laws, they are found to present, among others, the following results:

1. That fifteen years' contribution, of a fixed sum, is all that is necessary to entitle the widow and children of a contributor to the largest annuity that the Corporation pays, and consequently, that no additional contribution is attended by any benefit to the contributor's family.

2. That an annual contribution of such sum, during the life of the contributor, must nevertheless be made.

3. That whether the wife of the contributor be, by reason of age or infirmity, a better or a worse life in any degree than that of her husband, the circumstance is of no moment.

4. That the state of the contributor's health, or his age, when the contribution is begun, is of no consequence.

5. That in case of a child or children surviving, as well as a widow, the widow's annuity must be reduced one-half, or two-thirds, whatever be the condition of the respective parties in point of age or otherwise; and, consequently, whatever be the particular expediency to the contrary.

6. That in case the widow marries again, her annuity is reduced to a moiety, although the maximum of the annuities as paid by the Corporation is one hundred and twenty dollars.

7. That whatever be the age of the children the annuity is, so far as it regards them, always converted into an absolute payment for thirteen years. . . . . .

The provisions referred to show that the fundamental laws of the Corporation have proceeded from mixed considerations, partly of right and partly of general expediency, and have been greatly influenced by regarding the clergymen in the diocese as one family, having a common interest, among whom it was desirable to distribute a common good, without any very nice adjustment of its amount in proportion to their probable contribution to it. *The laws have not been made with exclusive reference to the chances of life in each case.* They have been affected by considerations, derived from the supposed general condition of clergymen during life, and of their families at their death, and by a desire to provide for these general circumstances. It is easy to perceive that, if exclusive reference be had to the chances of life in each case, the same rate of contribution ought not to purchase the same deferred annuity in two cases, in one of which the contribution is begun by a husband at the age of forty-five, his wife being of the age of thirty, and in the other it is begun when both husband and wife are forty-five. It is also plain that the same annual contributions promise different values in return to two clergymen, one of whom has a wife and children, and the other a wife only, and that the degree of difference is affected by the number of children, the age of the wife, the age of the husband, and all other circumstances which affect a life interest. Whether it is the most judicious course to attempt to make a provision that will suit what may be deemed an average of the cases that occur, compelling every contributor either to renounce the benefits of the Corporation altogether, or to take them under all the disadvantages which the difference between his particular case and the average of cases may occasion, would be perhaps a more difficult question, if experience had not already settled it in one way. The fact is, that the plan of the Corporation has not been generally resorted to; and, therefore, we may suppose, has not been generally approved. Men commonly prefer, for the regulation of their pecuniary contracts, those rules which will give them the benefit of what is their own, and which will deprive them of no part of it for the purpose of giving it to somebody else; and this, not because the disposition to do good to others does not exist, but that it does

not blend conveniently with matter of pecuniary contract. In contracts which make the returns at all dependent on the chances of life, the preference is, for this reason, given to those rules which measure them by that standard accurately, as applied to the particular case. A rule which promises the same annuity, in return for a life contribution, begun when the contributor's life is estimated as worth but fifteen years as for one that is begun when his life is estimated as worth thirty, and which promises that annuity without any reference to the greater or less age of the expected annuitant, may be very unequal in its particular operation, however convenient for the body of clergymen in a diocese. Those whom the rule of the Corporation does not favor in the same degree as others for want of some ingredient in their individual case, object to it, even though in the main it may be beneficial to them; and those whom it favors the most are diverted from investigating its benefits, by learning that the returns are adjusted by general considerations that apply to some cases better than others.

It may be presumed, however, that among the causes which have prevented a resort to the Corporation, the principal one is this. A contribution for fifteen years being as good as one for twice that term, there is an advantage given to postponement, and a disadvantage visited upon an early contribution, the influence of which few minds can resist. It is not because a contributor, however soon he begins, has not a fair chance of getting an annuity fully equal to his contribution, but that his chance is not impaired in direct proportion to his delay, nor improved in the same proportion to his promptness, and particularly that the chance of some other, who begins at a later day, is not as much worse as it is later in its origin. This circumstance seems to be a sufficient reason with young clergymen, to put off their contributions to another time, and it is not singular that the example should affect those to whom the reason does not apply. The example of postponement is more seducing than that of immediate action, and what is put off or postponed in matters of life insurance is, in general, never done. In this way may be explained the fact that the Corporation has done so little in prosecution of the excellent design with which it was established.

The committee, after reflecting upon the subject, incline then to think that the fundamental laws of the Corporation are not practically the best that can be adopted for clergymen and their families, because they are not made with an exclusive reference to the chances of life in each case. If they are made with such

a reference, they will enable a clergyman to secure to his family the advantages of his life, for its probable term, according to approved tables, and in so doing, they will enable him to provide for every other circumstance of his case better, in general, than the Corporation can do it for him. Whether the provision shall embrace a widow only, or his children only, or one out of several of them; whether it shall come in the shape of a deferred annuity, or of an endowment, and whether it shall assume that shape during his life, or the option is given to him of using the Corporation as a savings bank for his widow and children, and of disposing of the accumulation in their favor at his death, are points which it seems best, in the present state of the world, to leave to the discretion of the individual concerned, and if the Corporation assists a clergyman of the diocese, in either of these modes to which his discretion shall incline him, it will do a great good, and probably the greatest good that it can in any way effect.

With respect to the interests of the Society itself—which were, in fact, but the interests of the clergy and their families—it seemed to be a sufficient reason for a revision of the laws, that upon inquiry from men professionally conversant with the subject, it was found to be their opinion, confirmatory of that already referred to as coming by tradition from Dr. Price, that these fundamental laws were constructed upon such principles, as in case of a large resort to the Society, would probably make its funds inadequate to the risks undertaken by it; to say nothing of what was found also to be a fact, that the rate of interest upon which investments could be regularly made had become much lower than it was in 1769, when the still existing rate of annuity for the same rate of payment was promised. Looking thus at the whole matter, it was resolved so to alter the fundamental laws as to place the Corporation upon the footing of a life insurance and annuity company, such as are in nearly universal use in all our large cities; and, moreover, in order to afford a still simpler form of profiting by it—one by which the savings of the clergy might be profitably accumulated for the benefit of their widows and children, or, if none, then of their legal representatives—to combine with the design of such an institution the principles of a Bank for Savings.

And the fundamental laws were thus altered accordingly.

The Company now, therefore, allows the clergy to provide for their families, wives, and children, in three different ways:

1. It grants annuities on the ordinary principles of annuity companies; that is to say, the Corporation, in consideration of the punctual payment of an annual premium during life of any clergyman of the Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, or upon the payment of a larger sum at one time, will pay to his wife, in case she survives him, a corresponding annuity semi-annually, during life.

2. It also grants endowments to the widows and children of clergymen; that is to say, in consideration of the payment of an annual premium, during the life of such clergyman, it will pay, at his death, to his wife, or to all or any of his children, in case they shall respectively then be living, an endowment or certain sum of money, corresponding to the amount of the premium or payment; or an annuity to all or any of his children corresponding to the ages of the respective parties at the time of the death of the clergyman.

3. It receives from any such clergyman, *or from others, in their behalf,* money on deposit, for accumulation, at compound interest; and, at his death, distributes the aggregate amount accumulated among his widow and children then living, and the issue of any deceased child or children, as he shall direct by any instrument in writing; and equally, if he leaves no direction, the issue, in that case, to take only the share which their parent would have taken, if living; or any part of the whole amount accruing to the widow, or to any child, may be converted, at her death, according to his direction, or at the option of the party, if he leaves no direction, into annuity or annuities, payable to his widow or such child for life. If the clergyman leave neither widow nor child, nor the issue of any deceased child, the accumulation would be disposed of as he shall direct in writing, and in default of direction to his legal representative.

4. It allows the vestry of any church, being a member of the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, to make deposits of money for the clergy of their respective churches, either for annuities, endowments, or accumulation.

The rates of premium, or of the gross sum to be paid for the annuities for endowments desired, are fixed by tables compiled by one of the best companies of Philadelphia; and along with the exact fundamental rules themselves, have been frequently printed for the use of clergymen desirous to profit of the advantages offered.

A law which, however, did but recognize a provision long before existing, and a practice long before acted upon,* and combining both the principle of contract and bounty, was made, that after all the charges of the year against the Corporation had been paid or provided for, so much of any surplus, interest, or profit as the corporators should then see fit should be added to the funds, and the remainder, if any, should "be applied as the Corporation shall think just to increase the annuities, endowments, and other payments made by the Corporation." And a new committee, called the Acting Committee, was now constituted, to be composed of five members, any three of whom should have authority to represent the Corporation, by making contracts and affixing the public seal thereto, ordering payments in performance of them by the treasurer, receiving and investing deposits, and in doing other matters arising under the new fundamental laws relating to annuities. The office of Actuary was created, for the purpose of having a person to make the necessary calculations of annuities, endowments, and interest on deposits. And the old fundamental laws were repealed, except as to existing contracts. The Hon. Horace Binney, along with Messrs. Thomas Hale, James S. Smith, John Read, and Samuel Hazlehurst were appointed this acting committee, and Mr. Stevenson, well remembered yet by many as the faithful treasurer of the city of Philadelphia, the actuary. Mr. Hale being about the same time compelled, from declining health, to resign the office of treasurer, which he had held with great advantage to the Society for twenty-one years, Horace Binney, Jr., Esq., was appointed to that responsible post.

The Society pursued, after this date, its business with great regularity, in all the new forms allowed by the new laws. But everything having proceeded in lines well defined and carefully followed, we have now few incidents to record.

* See Mr. Binney's Preface to the Fundamental Laws, 1851, p. 6.

In the summer of 1836, amidst the profound respect of the whole community in which, during a long life, he had lived, and for the space of sixty-four years had proclaimed the truths of the ever blessed gospel, on Sunday, July 17th, "as the hour of noon approached when the prayers of various Episcopal congregations through several Dioceses had but just gone up to heaven in intercessions for him," the venerable president of the Society, Bishop White, departed this life. He was eighty-eight years, three months, and thirteen days old, had been a member of this Society for sixty-three years, its president for forty-seven, and with the rarest exceptions, present at its meetings from the year 1771; many of them having been held in his own study. His charges and letters are full of evidences of his regard for its welfare, and for the right devotion of its funds, and we know from many sources how carefully he guarded all its interests.

The Corporation, at the annual meeting next succeeding his death, resolved unanimously,

> That there should be entered on its minutes an expression of the high sense entertained by it, not only of his excellency as a man, a Christian, and a bishop, but of his amenity as a colleague, of his faithfulness as a president, and of his activity and vigilance in securing the property of the Corporation after the Revolution, and in watching over its interests until the period of his lamented death.

Resolutions upon the death of members are, in most societies of this day and of our country so usual as to have little value, even in cases where most sincere with the authors of them, and best deserved by the departed in whose honor they are passed. Their value in the present instance is testified to by the fact, that although founders and benefactors, and officers of every grade had been departing in nearly every year since 1769 from among the living, no resolutions of the sort had ever before been passed by this Society since the foundation of it, then a term of sixty-seven years. On the death of Bishop White, the Rt. Rev. Henry Ustick Onderdonk, D.D., became president of the Corporation.

The powers given by this charter to the Corporation, it has been already observed by us, were confined to the relief of

the *widows and children* of elergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and did not embraee the relief of such elergymen themselves. In 1835, two ladies of the Chureh, Miss Margaret and Miss Catharine Yeates, of Lancaster, having eaeh given to Messrs. Binney, the eldest, James S. Smith, and J. R. Ingersoll, $1000 apiece, whieh they had deposited in the hands of Bishop White for the benefit of a specified elass of the clergy; and it being supposed that other persons might make donations for the relief of elergymen, the Legislature of Pennsylvania, by an act of Mareh 7th, 1837, gave the Corporation power "to take, reeeive, and hold donations by will, or otherwise, from any person or persons, in trust for the benefit, relief, and support of any elergyman or elergymen in the communion of the said Chureh, and to exeeute the trust and trusts which have been or may be declared in regard to the same." The fund given by the Misses Yeates was, aecordingly, by their consent and under authority given in the aet, transferred to this Corporation, whieh now exeeutes the trust declared by its pious donors in regard to it, and which stands ready to receive and hold donations by will or otherwise for the benefit of any elergyman, and to exeeute trusts in their favor. "The Committee on Trusts," eomposed in its first organization of Messrs. James S. Smith, Tobias Wagner, and William Chaloner, was now devised, whose duty it should be to superintend the exeeution of the trust ereated by the Misses Yeates, and of any similar ones thereafter to be deelared, and who should have power, in eonjunetion with the treasurer, to take orders for the investment of the trust funds, the receipt of the interest or ineome, and the appropriation thereof, aecording to the trusts.

Thus, though the exeellent design of Archbishop Tennison, in 1715, was arrested at the time, and in its modal form and shape never took, nor can now take effeet, it is here, in its general purpose, revived, and seems, through the organs of this Soeiety now, in our day, and in days whieh shall succeed it, to have a prospeet of a beneficent eompletion.*

While for the relief of the widows and ehildren of the elergy,

* This fund amounts now (May, 1869) to above $4000.

the munificence and prudence of a former day have sufficiently provided, this new capacity of the Corporation to execute trusts for the relief of the clergy themselves, strongly invites the liberality of the piously disposed of our own and future times.

It remains to mention the long-continued services of the Rev. Jackson Kemper, D.D., of the Rev. William Heathcote Delancey, D.D., and of the Rev. John Curtis Clay, D.D., successively secretaries of the Corporation; fourteen years of service of the first having terminated only with his removal from the diocese to Connecticut, in 1831, on his election as rector of St. Paul's Church, Norwalk, some time previous to his consecration to the great work in the West, wherewith his name is first associated; the charge of the second ending but by his elevation to the Episcopate in 1839; and that of the last, after nearly twenty-five years of devotion, only by the indisposition which preceded his death. With mention of these must be connected a record yet more special, of the useful offices of Mr. Horace Binney, Jr., in the more responsible place of treasurer of the Corporation. These were freely and most faithfully and advantageously given, from 1836 till 1854, when the funds of the Corporation, notwithstanding its unintermitted justice and liberality, having increased from $54,000 to $137,000, and the business of the Corporation become proportionately burdensome, it was thought unreasonable longer to ask of any gentleman a devotion to its interests, which exacted so much labor and absorbed so much time, without some compensation. And a salary was now attached to the office of treasurer. Mr. Binney, Jr., who, by the unanimous voice of the Corporation, would have been re-elected to his former place had he been willing to hold it in its new conditions, now declined further election, and profited of a relief from his long and useful service to visit Europe. The minutes contain an appropriate entry thus:

The following resolutions, offered by P. McCall, Esq., were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the trustees have learned, with much regret, the determination of Mr. Horace Binney, Jr., to decline a re-election to the office of treasurer, the duties of which he has discharged for eighteen years without pecuniary compensation, with faith-

fulness and accuracy, which have greatly promoted the interests of the Corporation, and merit the warmest thanks of the trustees.

Resolved, That the trustees entertain a just appreciation of the important services which Mr. Binney has rendered in his capacity of treasurer, and they hereby tender to him their grateful acknowledgments of the same, and desire him to carry with him, in his contemplated visit to the Old World, their cordial wishes for his health and happiness.

A gentleman, the son of a respected and useful member, but not himself then or since a member, was appointed to the office. He continues to hold it now that the century of our existence is complete. While declining a place in the Society to which pecuniary emolument was attached, Mr. Binney, Jr., has not the less devotedly served the Society in offices of other kinds. On its acting committee, on its committee of trusts, and, indeed, in all departments of useful labor, his interest and his efficiency have continued unabated to this day; now thirty-four years from his first connection with the body. No better wish can be had for it than that they may be still much longer continued.

On the 6th of December, 1858, respected by men whose respect was an irrefragable testimony to his virtues, departed this life the Rt. Rev. Henry Ustick Onderdonk, second bishop of the Diocese and late president of this Corporation. His ministry,—until his consecration on the 25th of October, 1827, by the hands of the holy White, assisted by Hobart, and Kemp, and Croes, and Bowen, who united in the solemn act,—having been passed away from the Diocese of Pennsylvania, his relations to the Society, unlike those of his venerable predecessor, were not begun in youth; nor had opportunities been afforded him, by its necessities, to serve it in the same important way. But from the time of his election to membership in it, in May, 1831, till the close of his life, he was rarely absent from its meetings, and never indifferent to its welfare. He took great interest in its action, and joined heartily in the important measures which, during his presidency, gave to it that new vigor and stability, of which the clergy in this day reap, as we may hope that those of future days will continue to reap the benefits. Followed by mourners numerous and true, his remains were interred in the churchyard of St. James the

Less, where a monument was erected over them by his friends, citizens of the city where he lived, who vied with each other thus to testify their affection for his memory. The following resolutions, passed unanimously at the meeting of the Corporation next succeeding his death, present to us the only historic event of the meeting of that year:

Resolved, That the trustees deem it fitting, on this occasion, to record their sense of the loss which they have sustained by the decease of their late colleague, the Rt. Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk.

Resolved, That the extraordinary vigor of intellect, the profound learning, and varied ability, which distinguished this eminent divine, and rendered him one of the greatest lights of the American Church, claim our grateful admiration.

Resolved, That while we record our admiration of the mental endowments, which for so many years were consecrated by Bishop Onderdonk to the cause of true religion and the interests of the Protestant Episcopal Church, we cannot withhold the tribute of our respect to the Christian graces which adorned his character; and, in an especial manner, our sympathy for the humility and submission with which he sustained the trials which clouded the evening of his valuable life.

We must not conclude our history of the singular prudence, justice, and regularity by which the administration of this Corporation has been marked, without recording also certain provisions of consideration for the clergy which its solid wealth enabled it to adopt in 1868; a suitable memorial and auspice with which to enter on the second century of its existence.

In the meeting on the 5th of May of the year just named, the Hon. Peter McCall, chairman of the Acting Committee, submitted in behalf of that committee, composed at the time of himself, Horace Binney, Jr., G. M. Wharton, R. R. Montgomery, and Ellis Yarnall, Esqs., a unanimous report, and which makes an event in the corporate history. It is marked by the utmost sympathy with the trials of our clergy, arising from the limited salaries which they so often receive, and by a desire to enable them, notwithstanding this parsimony of the world, to provide from even such incomes for their widows and children. We can give but an extract. It thus opens:

The pecuniary prosperity of the Corporation continues to increase. After payment of $200 legal obligations, $2205 gratuitous bounty, and of all expenses, the net surplus added to our assets is $\$13{,}503\frac{34}{100}$.

The amount of income derived from the payment of premiums on policies of endowment and a quintuple annuity is only $\$1283\frac{20}{100}$, showing how little we now depend upon that source of revenue.

Our first duty is to do our utmost within reasonable and legal limits for the benefit of the clergy now connected with us, by lightening of their annual burdens.

* * * * * * * *

In the present state of our annual surplus the amount of the *legal* claim under the policy becomes a less and less important subject of consideration. The wants of the widow and orphans of the clergyman are now the first element in our adjustment of the gratuitous payment on a death claim.

The committee, therefore, recommended the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the treasurer be, and he is hereby instructed, on receiving the premiums on policies of endowments, payable during the year, beginning this day, to return to such of the holders thereof, as will then have made two consecutive payments, five per cent. of the premium then payable; and to such of the holders as will then have made three consecutive payments, ten per cent.

4	conseeutive	payments,	.	.	.	20	per cent.
5	"	"	.	.	.	25	"
6	"	"	.	.	.	30	"
7	"	"	.	.	.	35	"
8	"	"	.	.	.	40	"
9	"	"	.	.	.	45	"
10	"	"	.	.	.	50	"
11	"	"	.	.	.	55	"
12	"	"	.	.	.	60	"
13	"	"	.	.	.	65	"
14	"	"	.	.	.	70	"
15	"	"	.	.	.	75	"

Resolved, That the Corporation hereby authorizes the acting committee, at any time after two annual payments shall have

been made, on a policy of endowment, to accept the surrender thereof while the policy remains in force, and to issue to the holder in lieu thereof an equivalent paid-up policy, such as would be purchased by a sum not exceeding in amount the sum of the premiums theretofore paid, together with the net interest earned by the Corporation upon them.

Resolved, That the acting committee is hereby authorized to issue, on behalf of the Corporation, policies of endowment on the ten year plan, adopting in their calculations of the annual premiums, the tables of rates lately issued by the "Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York," and herewith submitted.

And on motion, the same were, after consideration, unanimously adopted.

Such, I believe, is a sketch of this Society, now justly entitled to the addition of "venerable."

The list of members of the aggregate Corporation embraces the names of the most honorable men in almost every profession, and of men high in social estimation, not professionally engaged, alike in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, whether under their royal or under their republican administration. And the Corporation in Pennsylvania has not, in its separated form, proved unworthy of its earlier and associated history.

The names of Seabury, White, Provoost, Benjamin and Richard Channing Moore, Croes, Kemper, Henry Ustick Onderdonk, McCoskrey, Upfold, Odenheimer, and Wister Morris, are among the bishops of our Church. Those of Dr. Bird Wilson, and Dr. Benjamin Dorr, stand hardly less eminent as having refused to take upon them that awful title. While the list of clerical members generally is filled with the names of those who, in other orders of the ministry, have edified and made perfect the Church.

Among the statesmen and magistrates of our nation, who have actively participated in the councils of this body, stand the names of Alexander Hamilton and John Jay; Hamilton, who "smote the rock of the national resources, and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth; who touched the dead corpse of the public credit, and it sprung upon its feet;" Jay, the pure, the disinterested, the patriotic; upon whom,

"when fell the spotless ermine of the judicial robe, it touched nothing less spotless than itself."

Among the eminent judges of Pennsylvania, who were its members, have been Benjamin Chew, Edward Shippen, and William Tilghman, successively chief justices of this Province or State; with Francis Hopkinson, and Richard Peters, administrators of the public or national jurisprudence. John Stevens, of New Jersey, stands eminent in the history of bold and useful undertaking, rewarded and finished by perfect success. In the law, beginning in the very origin of the Society with the names of Galloway and John Ross, and coming through a long list of able lawyers devoted to its welfare, the century concludes with that of the venerable Horace Binney, the eldest, with which it may well be content to terminate for this century its list. Sixteen years ago, A.D. 1854, after a service by him, not then short, when this eminent lawyer had much passed the age of three score and ten years, the Corporation thus unanimously expressed its sense of his active usefulness and advantageous councils:

Resolved, That the members of this Corporation deem it due to the Hon. Horace Binney, to record, on their minutes, the high sense which they entertain of his able, faithful, and long-continued services, in behalf of the Corporation. To him, in a great measure, is to be ascribed the increased interest now evinced in the institution, by those who, although they belonged to the class it was found to benefit, delayed or declined to avail themselves of its advantages, and looked with indifference upon its progress.

Such is no longer the case, and the members believe that the change may be mainly ascribed to Mr. Binney. At his suggestion, and under his direction as chairman of the acting committee, the fundamental by-laws were revised, and materially improved, and the system of deposits on interest was established. The publication of these, with a Preface written by Mr. Binney, furnished a history of the origin of the Corporation, from its establishment, in 1769, its progress, and the advantage it offered to all, and, in many instances, had afforded to the families of clergymen of this Diocese. It removed prejudice and created interest. For such services, the grateful acknowledgments of the members are justly due to Mr. Binney. They are now expressed, and this record made, because he has intimated his wish no longer to continue a member of the Acting Committee.

To this wish, however reluctantly, the members cannot refuse to accede, but they do so with the hope that for many years to come they may still have the benefit of his experience, his sound judgment, and his advice.

The pious hope of the Society has been graciously granted, and thus, after having for forty years given to the Corporation, most disinterestedly, the benefit of his great wisdom and experience, and been the originator, exponent, and administrator of the scheme, under which, with immense capacity for usefulness and equal foundation of strength, it now exists, he still, in his 91st year, continues, providentially, its vigilant and trusted adviser and friend.

I forbear to set out ostentatiously the many names eminent in the social history of the Colonies and the Republic. The list of our earlier members discloses them all; and shows that there were few persons eminent in such history, in either of the three Provinces or States, who were not members of this Society, if members of the Church at all. Some of them were "leaders of the people by their counsels;" and some of them "rich men, furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations." Some have left a name behind them, "that their praises might be reported;" and some have now "no memorial," and are "perished, as though they had never been"—but all alike were "honored in their generation, and the glory of their times."

In the hundred years which have passed since the original Society was incorporated, the roll presents the names of near 250 members. Many of them have performed, for years, great, laborious, and responsible service. But not one, that I have heard of, has ever asked or has ever been willing to receive one cent of compensation; and, by a rule of the Society, reciting this honorable fact, it is now ordained that no member, for any service rendered, ever shall.

The Society has proved of signal benefit in the cases of numerous families of the clergy departed this life. They have invariably received all that their fathers or husbands contracted for. In the earlier history of the body its contracts, as we have noted, were based upon a scheme so much more for the interests of the clergy who should first come upon the

fund than of the fund itself, that nothing but accidental facts and the fact that the Society was continually asking and continually receiving donations, saved it from disaster. But even then the families of the clergy subscribing received great additions from the surplus; as *ex. gr.*, in one case where the Society paid to one family, for thirteen years, $400 a year, where the sum contracted for was but $80. Since 1835, when the Society was placed on a safer basis, the same liberal administration has prevailed, and the family of one clergyman, who recently insured his life for $100, by making a single payment of $49.52, which compounded at the rate of five per cent. to the date of his death, amounted to but $68.14, has received an annual payment of $500. In the same way the child of a deceased clergyman, who had paid for two years $8 a year, receives lately over and above all that she was lawfully entitled to claim, an annual sum of $200 by way of bounty. These are but three instances of many. In no instance through the whole century, as we learn from a recorded statement given us by the oldest member of the body, has the Corporation enforced a forfeiture against any person whatever. It has allowed the contributors to change from one form of contract to another, where the by-laws permitted, and it has cancelled contracts where the pecuniary interests of the Corporation opposed it.* The whole administration of the concerns of the Corporation has been, for the entire century, as much distinguished by liberality as by prudence and by justice. What higher praise can be given to the administration of any corporation intrusted with interests like those of this!

A strange indisposition is said to have prevailed among a few of the clergy to contracting with this Society, because the rates of some secular societies, for an agreement by them to pay the same sums as this Society contracts to pay, are lower than in this Corporation.

To this it is one answer that the rates of no society equally solid are lower; nor, as the trustees of this Corporation believe, of any society—irrespective of comparisons—which is to be deemed certainly solid; solid against all contingencies. And that the rates of this Society are as low as persons pro-

* See Mr. Binney's Preface, p. 25.

fessionally acquainted with rates of mortality in this country deem safe for the Company to contract upon. Some remarks of Mr. Binney* on this subject have irresistible force:

"The parties to be protected are widows and children, after the termination of the life upon which their support and maintenance under God depended. Disappointment, if it ensued, is to fall upon *them*. No person worthy of membership in such a Corporation could give his consent to the adoption of any scheme which would flatter the living and disappoint their helpless families. The country is full of schemes of this nature. There is an underbidding of rates going on in the community to attract business from one insurance office to another. Mutual insurance companies have, in some instances, sprung up, promising a bonus from time to time to the insured, and sometimes giving it, and this may be so done as to leave the burden of the future, the result of the average of many years, to be borne by those whose claims are to become consummate in the future. These are speculative schemes with which this Corporation has never had, and while it shall be conscientiously managed, never will have any connection. If clergymen of the Church see fit to participate in them, the way is open to them as it is to everybody; but, however such plans of insurance may be made palatable to persons who insure for their present gain, they are, when wild and insecure in their promises or the management of the companies, strange plans for clergymen who insure for their widows and children."

Another answer is, that beyond the sum contracted for and received in each year, as of strictest right, the surplus income above what it is thought but prudent to add to the capital for extraordinary needs is, by fundamental rule, applied, "as the Corporation shall think just, to *increase* the annuities, endowments, and other payments, made by the Corporation;" and that thus, with the large existing surplus, the parties for whose benefit the contract is made, will almost certainly receive more—perhaps vastly more—than their contract calls for by its terms; profits in this Society not going, as in most secular ones, as dividends to stockholders, but all inuring in reality to the advantage of the persons to be provided for under its contracts.

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* Mr. Binney's Preface.

But the indisposition still prevails, perhaps because this remainder of surplus is to be so applied as the *Corporation shall think just.* And this has been thought, perhaps, to be the reception of alms. It is difficult to perceive how that can be the reception of alms which the family of any person receives only because himself, or his ancestor, or relative, or friend, has paid for it, and which no one ever has got, or ever can get, unless some one has paid for it; or why a matter of fair expectation cannot be as much the subject of contract as a matter of positive payment. The legal power of the directors, in distributing the surplus, is, to be sure, an absolute one with the directors, but, as remarked in the pamphlet from which we so often quote,* "it is efficiently controlled against all abuse by their characters, their moral duty, and their responsibility to public opinion." "The same objection," the pamphlet rightly observes, "holds to every gratuitous contribution made by a vestry to a clergyman of the Church, beyond his stipulated salary—to every increase of the bishop's support by the churches, or by individual gift, to the Yeates fund held by the Corporation, to the Christmas fund, instituted by the vote of Convention, and, in fine, to all voluntary contributions that in any way tend to increase the revenues of the clergy. It would be quite a new occurrence to find any part of such contributions rejected, because they are not demandable by the legal contract. Such an occurrence, in the case of any of their annuitants, has not happened in the history of this Corporation; and it ought to obviate the objection to persons the most sensitive, that the members of the Corporation do not administer their own bounty, but the very moderate bounty of a former age, successfully accumulated through a course of years by the fidelity and gratuitous care of the successive managers of the trust. It is not their own gift that they administer, nor hardly the gift of any one, but it is the large accumulation of originally a very small gift."

The objection spoken of could be understood did it come from clergymen in *opulent* circumstances—to which some clergymen, contractors with this Society, have happened to arrive after making their contracts with it, though not in such cir-

* Mr. Binney's Preface, 25.

cumstanees before—and who, if governed by worldly motives, would wish to demand, as a right, an *equal* division among all contractors, of the surplus profits, and so further to enrieh their own families, left already rich by them, at the expense of the poorer families of their less fortunate brethren. But as coming from the elergy generally, or from any elergymen not rieh, needing the benefits of the Society, and interested to obtain for their own families all that ean be given with a just regard to other families no better situated, the objeetion is difficult to understand. It is, in truth, one with no force whatever.

APPENDIX.

BENEFACTIONS.

		£	s.	d.
1769, Oct. 10.	A contribution from the congregation at Christ Church, Philadelphia, on the first meeting of the Corporation in that city,	40	0	6
1769, Oct. 11.	A donation from the Rev'd Mr. Peters,	200		
"	" from a gentleman unknown, by the Rev'd Mr. Cooke,	10	15	4
"	" from a gentleman unknown, by the Rev'd Dr. Smith,	6		
"	" from a lady, by the same hand,	1		
"	" from a gentleman, by the Rev'd Dr. Chandler,	6		
"	" from a gentleman, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from a person unknown, by the Rev'd Mr. Peters,		15	
		£267	10s	10d
1770.	The donations of several ladies, by the Rev'd Mr. Duehé,	14	8	
"	A donation from Mrs. Jackson, by the Rev'd Mr. Craig,	1		
"	" from Mrs. Vanlear, by the same hand,	1		
"	" from the Lord Bishop of London, £20 sterling,	33		
"	" from His Excellency Governor Franklin,	10		
"	A contribution at St. Mary's Church, Burlington,	5	8	
"	" at St. Andrew's Church, Mount Holly,	2	5	9
"	A donation from the Hon. Sir William Johnson, Bart.,	9	7	6
1770, Oct. 2.	A contribution from the congregation of Trinity Church, New York, at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation,	140	12	0½
"	A donation from a person unknown, by Dr. Auchmuty,	3		
"	" from a person unknown, by the same hand,	1	17	6
"	" from a lady unknown, by the Rev'd Dr. Ogilvie,	3		
"	" from a military gentleman, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from another military gentleman, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from another military gentleman, by the same hand,	1	17	6
"	" from a gentleman unknown, by Dr. Auchmuty,	2	16	3
"	" from a lady, by Dr. Ogilvie,	3		

		£	s.	d.
1770, Oct. 2.	A donation from the Rev'd Mr. Provoost, by Dr. Auehmuty,	9	7	6
"	" from the Rev'd Mr. Forbes, by the same hand, a pistole,	1	7	$2\frac{1}{4}$
"	" from a lady unknown, by Dr. Ogilvie,	3		
"	" from a gentleman unknown, by Dr. Auehmuty,	8	4	$0\frac{3}{4}$
"	" from a lady unknown, by the same hand,	1	10	
"	" from the Rev'd Mr. Preston, by Dr. Chandler, a guinea,	1	14	$8\frac{1}{4}$
"	The annual contribution of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, £60 sterling,	97	0	$7\frac{1}{2}$
"	A donation from Mr. Wm. Hilton, by Dr. Chandler,	0	18	9
1771.	A donation from the Right Hon. Lord Darby, of Ireland, by Major Fell,	5	2	
"	" from Col. John Lawrence, of Charlestown, South Carolina, by Dr. Peters,	7	10	
"	" from Mr. J—— M——, of Philadelphia, by Dr. Smith,	1		
"	" from Mrs. P——, of Philadelphia, by the same hand,	2		
"	" from Thos. Smith, Esq., of Charlestown, South Carolina, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from Mr. Elliot, of the same place, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from Robert Pringle, Esq., of the same place, by the same hand,	6		
"	" from John Smith, Esq., of Perth Amboy, by the same hand,	3		
"	" from Col. Armstrong, of New Castle County, by the same hand,	5		
"	" from John Morton, Esq., of Chester, by the Rev'd Mr. Craig,	3		
"	" from Mr. John Crosby, Jr., of Chester, by the same hand,	2		
"	" from Henry Hale Graham, Esq., of Chester, by the same hand,	1	5	9
"	A contribution from the congregation of St. Martin's, Chichester, by the same hand,	1	1	4
1771, Oct. 2.	A contribution from the congregation of St. Peter's Church, Perth Amboy, at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation,	30	3	2
"	The donations of two persons unknown, by Cortland Skinner, Esq.,	1	15	4
1772, May 23.	Contributions (sterling money of Great Britain), through the Rev'd Thomas Wharton and Henry Duke, Esq., of congregations and individuals in the Island of Barbadoes,	190	9	$8\frac{1}{2}$
1772, Oct. 8.	A subscription by Richard Hoekley, Esq., of £5 during his natural life,	?		

		£	s.	d.
1772, Oct. 8.	A contribution from the congregation of Christ Church, Philadelphia, at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation,	120	3	0
1773, Oct. 5.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, at the Annual Meeting, New York, . "A handsome collection."			
1774, October.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, at the Annual Meeting, Elizabethtown, ...	?		
1773–4.	A donation from John Dickinson, Esq., by the hands of the Rev'd Dr. Smith, ...	13	10	
" "	from Dr. Alexander Ross, of Jamaica, by the same hand, ...	6		
" "	from the Hon. James Hamilton, Esq., of Pennsylvania, by the hands of the President, .	20		
" "	from Mr. James Nixon, by the hands of the Rev'd Dr. Cooper, ...	5		
1784, Oct. 10.	A contribution from the congregation of St. Paul's Church, New York, at the Annual Meeting, forenoon, . .	69	0	4
"	A contribution from the congregation of St. George's, on the same occasion, afternoon, ...	43	18	10
1786.	A bequest from Mr. James De Blez, ...	400		
1786, Oct. 4.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, Philadelphia, at the Annual Meeting, ...	25	16	9
1787, Oct. 3.	A contribution from the congregation of St. Paul's Chapel, New York, at the Annual Meeting, ...	23	1	
1788, Sept. 30.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, New Brunswick, at the Annual Meeting, in Jersey paper,	5	15	
	" New York "		10	
	" Silver, . .	1	13	4*
	" Coppers, . .		8†	
1789.	A bequest from Mr. Andrew Doz, of Philadelphia, (about)	$4000		
1789, Oct. 7.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, Philadelphia, at the Annual Meeting, ...	£48	1s	0d
1790, Oct. 5.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, New York, ...	20	3	3
1791.	A contribution from the congregation of ——— Church, Trenton, at the Annual Meeting, ...	7	12	7
1827.	A bequest from the Hon. William Tilghman, Esq., late Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, ...	$100		

* At $\frac{7}{6}$ to the dollar. † At 15 to the shilling.

The payments by the clergy contracting with the Society, or "Stated Annual Contributors," as they are called on the Minutes, as given on these Minutes—were:

	£	s.	d.
1770, October, ...	£159 = $424		

After that they are not given on the Minutes. Neither does the Minute-Book record more than the first contribution by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, though doubtless made until the War of the Revolution broke out.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

Before the Revolution.

PRESIDENT.

1770—1776. The Rev'd Richard Peters, D.D.

After the Revolution.

Before the Division of the Corporation.

1784—1789. The Rev'd William Smith, D.D.
1789—1813. The Right Rev'd William White, D.D.

After the Division of the Corporation.

1813—1836. The Right Rev'd William White, D.D.
1842—1845. The Right Rev'd Henry Ustick Onderdonk, D.D.
1849—1865. The Right Rev'd Alonzo Potter, D.D.
1870 — The Honorable Horace Binney, LL.D.

TREASURERS.

Before the Revolution.

1769—1773. Jacob Le Roy, Esquire, for New York.
The Rev'd Thomas Bradbury Chandler, for New Jersey.
Francis Hopkinson, for Pennsylvania.

1773—1775. Jacob Le Roy, Esquire, for New York.
The Rev'd Thomas Bradbury Chandler, for New Jersey.
Samuel Powel, Esquire, for Pennsylvania.

1775—1784. Jacob Le Roy, Esquire, for New York.
Daniel Coxe, Esquire, for New Jersey.
Samuel Powel, Esquire, for Pennsylvania.

After the Revolution.

Before the Division of the Corporation.

1784—1786. John Alsop, for New York.
Joshua Maddox Wallace, for New Jersey.
Samuel Powel, for Pennsylvania.

1786—1793. John Alsop, for New York.*
Joshua Maddox Wallace, for New Jersey.
John Wilcocks, for Pennsylvania.

1793—1803. ——— ———, for New York.
Joshua Maddox Wallace, for New Jersey.
——— ———, for Pennsylvania.

1803—1813. ——— ———, for New York.
Joshua Maddox Wallace, for New Jersey.
The Rev'd Robert Blackwell, D.D., for Pennsylvania.

After the Division.

(For Pennsylvania.)

1813—1814. The Rev'd Robert Blackwell, D.D.
1814—1835. Thomas Hale.
1835—1836. Cornelius Stevenson.
1836—1854. Horace Binney, Jr.
1854—18—. James Somers Smith.

SECRETARIES.

Before the Revolution.

1769—1774. Reverend Jonathan Odell.
1774———. " Mr. Combe.

After the Revolution.

1784—1814? Reverend Benjamin Moore.
1814—1832. " Jackson Kemper.
1832—1833. " James Montgomery.
1833—1839. " William Heathcote De Lancey.
1839—1862. " Jehu Curtis Clay.
1862—18—. James M. Aertsen.

PREACHERS BEFORE THE CORPORATION.

Before the Revolution.

1769.	Rev'd William Smith, D.D., . . .	Christ Church,	Philadelphia.
1770.	" Samuel Auchmuty, D.D., . . .	Trinity Church,	New York.
1771.	" Thomas Bradbury Chandler, D.D., .	St. Peters,	Perth Amboy.
1772.	" Richard Peters, D.D., . . .	Christ Church,	Philadelphia.
1773.	" Richard Peters, D.D., . . .	———————	New York.
1774.	" Mr. Reading, ...	———————	Elizabethtown.

After the Revolution.

1784.	Rev'd Samuel Magaw, D.D , . . .	St. Paul's Church,	New York.
1786.	" Samuel Magaw, D.D., . . .	———————	Philadelphia.
1787.	The Right Rev'd William White, D.D., .	St. Paul's Chapel,	New York.
1788.	Rev'd Robert Andrews, D.D., . . .	———————	New Brunswick.
1789.	The Right Rev'd Samuel Seabury, D.D., .	———————	Philadelphia.
1790.	" " William White, D.D., .	———————	New York.
1791.	Rev'd Robert Blackwell, D.D., "At the Church" [St. Michael's],		Trenton.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

[Those persons before whose names an * is placed, were members of General Conventions of the Church prior to 1800. So far as the author has been able to do so, he has given a few particulars connected with some of the early members, and sometimes the dates of their deaths. But he is not certain as to much that he thus gives; and as to many members he knows nothing beyond their names. He will take it kindly if any persons better informed than himself, and able either to correct his errors or to enlighten his ignorance, would communicate with him that he may make hereafter a record as nearly accurate and complete as possible.]

BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

Original Corporators.

"*Esquires.*"	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
John Watts,	1769	
Charles Ward Apthorpe [a founder of the New York Society Library],	"	
Henry Cruger [an eminent merchant of New York],	"	
[Of the Province of New York].		

"*Esquires.*"		
William Alexander, Esquire, claiming to be Earl of Sterling [an officer of the Jersey Line during the Revolution],	1769	
Peter Kemble,	"	
Charles Read,	"	
James Parker,	"	
Samuel Smith,	"	
Frederick Smythe [Chief Justice of the Province of New Jersey],	"	
[Of the Province of New Jersey].		

"*Esquires.*"		
James Hamilton,	1769	
Lyn-ford Lardner,	"	1774, Oct. 4.
Benjamin Chew [Chief Justice of the Province of Pennsylvania],	"	1810, Jan. 20.
James Tilghman [Secretary of the Provincial Land Office of Pennsylvania],	"	r. 1789.
[Of the City of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania].		

"*Doctors of Divinity.*"	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
*The Reverend William Smith [Provost of the College of Philadelphia],	1769	1803, May 14.
The Reverend Samuel Auchmuty [Assistant Minister, A.D. 1748–1764, of Trinity Church, New York; Rector A.D. 1764–1779. "I can truly say I scarcely ever knew a man possessed of a more humane, compassionate or benevolent heart. Often have I seen him melt into tears at the sight of distress in others, and the distressed never sought his aid in vain. Liberal and generous in his disposition, he seemed happy when alleviating affliction, or when employed in some office of benevolence or friendship."—(*Rev. Charles Inglis, March* 9, 1777, *afterwards Bishop of Nova Scotia*)],	"	1777, March 4.
The Reverend Thomas Bradbury Chandler [Rector of Elizabethtown, New Jersey],	"	r. to Eng. 1776, d. 1790, Jun. 17.
The Reverend Myles Cooper, Doctor of Laws [President of King's College, New York],	1769	

"*Clerks.*"		
Richard Peters [Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia],	1769	1776, July 6.
William Currie,	"	
Richard Charlton,	"	
Philip Reading [Missionary at Appoquinimink, Penna.],	"	
George Craig,	"	
John Ogilvie [Missionary from 1749 to 1760 to the Mohawk Indians, near Albany; from 1764 till 1774, Assistant Minister of Trinity Church, New York],	"	
Samuel Cooke [Missionary at Shrewsbury, N. J., from 1751 till the Revolution],	"	
*Samuel Seabury [Bishop, A.D. 1784, of Connecticut],	"	1796, Feb. 25.
Thomas Barton,	"	
Charles Inglis [Schoolmaster in the Free School at Lancaster, Pennsylvania; afterwards, from 1759 till 1765, Missionary at Dover in Delaware; from 1765 till 1777, Assistant Minister at Trinity Church, New York, and from 1777 till 1783, Rector; afterwards Bishop of Nova Scotia],	"	
William Thomson,	"	
Jacob Duché [Assistant Minister, A.D. 1776, of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia. Rector in 1775],	"	r. to Eng. 1777, d. 1798, Jan. 3.
Leonard Cutting,	"	
Alexander Murray,	"	1793, Sept. 14.
Ephraim Avery,	"	
John Beardley,	"	
Jonathan Odell [Missionary, from 1767 to 1776, at Burlington, N. J.; Member, A.D. 1769, of the American Philosophical Society],	"	
*Samuel Magaw [Rector, A.D. 1785, of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia],	"	1812, Dec. 1.

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
*John Andrews [Provost, A.D. 1810, of the University of Pennsylvania; previously Rector of St. Thomas's, Baltimore, Md.],	1769	1813, March 29.
*Abraham Beach [Missionary, A.D. 1767, of the Propagation Society at New Brunswick and Piscataqua; Rector, A.D. 1785, of Christ Church, New Brunswick; from 1784 to 1811, Assistant Minister of Trinity Church, New York, and from 1811–1813, Assistant Rector],	"	1828, Sept. 14.
William Ayres [Rector, A.D. 1792, of St. Peter's, Spottswood],	"	
*William Frazer [Rector, A.D. 1789, of St. Michael's, Trenton, and St. Andrew's, Amwell, N. J.],	"	
Esquires.		
Joseph Galloway [a well-known lawyer of Pennsylvania; Speaker of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania],	1769	r. to Eng. 1776, d. 1803.
Alexander Stedman [A Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia between A.D. 1754 and 1776; Warden of Christ Church, A.D. 1759–1762],	"	
John Ross [an able lawyer of Pennsylvania],	"	1776, May 6.
Richard Hockley,	"	
Samuel Johnson,	"	
Thomas Willing [from 1754 to 1807, successively, Secretary to the Congress of Delegates at Albany; Mayor of Philadelphia; her Representative in the General Assembly; President of the Provincial Congress; Delegate to the Congress of the Confederation; President of the first chartered bank in America; President of the first bank in the United States. Ob. 1821, æt. 90],	"	r. 1789.
John Swift,	"	
*Samuel Powell [Warden of the United Churches, A.D. 1778–1780],	"	
*Francis Hopkinson [Signer of the Declaration; Judge of the District Court of the U. S. for Pennsylvania; Warden of the United Churches, 1770],	"	1791, May 9.
William Atlee [Associate Justice A.D. 1777, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania],	"	
Doctor John Kearsley [Founder of Christ Church Hospital, Philadelphia],	"	1772, Jan.?
[Of the Province of Pennsylvania].		
Esquires.		
John Tabor Kempe [Attorney-General of the Province of New York; Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, from 1769 to 1778; Warden from 1779 to 1783. "A man whom I admire more and more every day. Understanding, learning, generosity, sensibility, and courage distinguish him. He is the tenderest of brothers,		

	Date of Election	Date of Vacation of Office.
the most affectionate husband and father. As a lawyer distinguished equally for skill and integrity; as a gentleman, remarkable for his politeness; as a friend, beloved for his sincerity; and my heartiest wish for my own peculiar interest is that I may become like him."—(*William Rawle, of Philadelphia*, A.D. 1778, *Kempe's pupil in the law*)],	1769	
John Livingston,	"	
Elias Desbrosses [Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, from 1759 to 1770; Warden from 1770 to 1778. Gratefully remembered as a large benefactor of the French Church in New York, and of a Charity School there],	"	
James De Lancey,	"	
James Cortland,	"	
Isaac Willet [Colonel in the Revolutionary Army],	"	
Nicholas Stuyvesant,	"	
*James Duane [Delegate from New York, A.D. 1774 to 1784, to the Continental Congress; Signer of the Articles of Confederation; appointed in 1789 by Washington, District Judge for New York; First Mayor of the city after its recovery from the British Army],	"	
Jacob Le Roy,	"	
Benjamin Kissam [Instructor in the Law of Chief Justice Jay; Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, from 1766 to 1783],	"	
Jacob Walton,	"	
William Axtell,	"	

[Of the Province of New York].

Esquires.

Cortland Skinner,	1769	
Daniel Coxe, of Trenton,	"	
John Lawrence [Mayor of the city of Burlington],	"	

[Of the Province of New Jersey].

MEMBERS ELECTED.

Hon. John Penn, Esq. [Lieut.-Governor of Pennsylvania],	1769, Oct. 10.	1795, Feb. 9.
Rev'd Mr. Muhlenburg [first Minister of the Lutheran Church, Philadelphia],	"	
His Excellency, William Franklin, Esq. [Governor of New Jersey],	"	1803, Nov. 13.
Rev'd Mr. John Preston [Missionary at Perth Amboy, New Jersey],	1769, Oct. 11.	
*The Rev'd Mr. Samuel Provoost [Bishop of New York, A.D. 1787; Chaplain to the Senate of the United States],	1770, Oct. 3.	1815, Sept. 6.
The Rev'd Mr. Isaac Browne,	"	
" Mr. John Sayre,	"	
* " Mr. Joshua Bloomer [Rector, A.D. 1785, of Jamaica, L. I.],	"	

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
The Rev'd Mr. John Lyon,	1770, Oct. 3.	
" Mr. Ebenezer Kneeland,	"	
Colonel Frederick Philips,	"	
His Excellency, William Tryon [Governor of New York],	1771, Oct. 2.	
*The Honorable Robert Morris, Esquire [of New Jersey],	"	
" Richard Penn,	1772, Oct. 6.	
*Richard Peters, Jr., Esquire [Judge of the District Court of the United States for Pennsylvania],	"	1828, Aug. 22.
Rev'd Mr. Harry Monro,	"	
" Mr. Thomas Combe [Assistant Minister, A.D. 1777, of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia],	"	1778, retired to England.
* " Mr. WILLIAM WHITE,	"	1836, July 17.
John Foxcroft, Esquire,	"	
Edward Biddle, Esquire [President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County],	"	
*Edward Shippen, Jr., Esq. [Chief Justice of Pennsylvania],	"	1806, April 16.
Goldsborough Banyar, Esquire,	"	
Rev'd William Stringer [Rector of St Paul's, Philadelphia],	1773, Oct. 5.	
* " Robert Blackwell [Missionary, A.D. 1774, and *postea* at Gloucester and Waterford, N. J., and preaching at Greenwich (now St. Peter's, Clarksborough?), in the same State; Chaplain to the Army of the United States during the Revolutionary War; and, from 1781 to 1811, Senior Assistant Minister of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia. Born May 6th, 1748],	"	1831, Feb. 12.
George Duncan Ludlow, Esquire,	"	
Rev'd Mr. Panton,	1774, Oct. 5.	
" Mr. Babcock,	"	
John Smyth, Esquire [of Amboy],	1774, Oct. 6.	

AFTER THE REVOLUTION.

Before the Division of the Corporation.

*Rev'd Benjamin Moore [Assistant Minister of Trinity Church; afterwards Bishop of New York],	1784, Oct. 8.	1816, Feb. 27.
*Rev'd Thomas L. Moore [Rector, A.D. 1795, of St. George's, South Hemstead, New York],	"	
*Rev'd Uzal Ogden [Assistant Minister, A.D. 1784, of Trinity Church, New York; Rector, A.D. 1785, of Christ Church, Sussex, N. J.; A.D. 1789, Rector of Trinity, Newark],	"	
*Rev'd Sydenham Thorne [Rector, A.D. 1786, of Christ Church and St. Paul's, Delaware],	"	
*Rev'd Charles Henry Wharton [Rector, A.D. 1785, of Emanuel Church, Newcastle, Del.; afterwards, from 1796 to 1833, of St. Mary's, Burlington, N. J.],	"	1833, July 23.
*Rev'd Joseph Hutchins [Rector, A.D. 1785, of St. James' Church, Lancaster, Penna.],	"	
*Rev'd John Campbell [Rector, A.D. 1785, of York and Huntingdon, Penna.],	"	

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
Robert R. Livingston [Recorder prior to 1776 of New York; Delegate from 1775 to 1777 and from 1779 to 1781 of the Continental Congress, and member of the Committee which drafted the Declaration of Independence. In 1781, Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In 1788, Chairman of the Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States. Chancellor of New York. In 1801, minister to the Court of France],	1784, Oct. 8.	1813, Feb. 26.
John Jay,	"	1829, May 17.
William Duer [Signer of the Articles of Confederation; Delegate, A.D. 1777 and 1778, to the Continental Congress],	"	
*John Rutherford [Nephew of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling; A Presidential elector in 1798, 1813, and 1821; Senator of the United States from New Jersey from 1791 to 1798, and the last survivor of the Senators in Congress during the administration of Washington; a large landholder in New Jersey, actively engaged in agricultural and internal improvements. Died at Ederston, N. J., ætat. 80],	"	1840, Feb. 23.
John Alsop [Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, A.D. 1784 to 1788],	"	
John Stevens, Jr. [Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, A.D. 1784 to 1787; the "first practical projector of Steamboats"],	"	
Morgan Lewis [Major in the Revolutionary Army; Chief Justice of New York; Governor of the State; for many years and until his death, President of the Society of the Cincinnati],	"	
Alexander Hamilton,	"	1804, July 12.
Walter Livingston [Of Livingston Manor on the Hudson; Delegate from New York to the Continental Congress, A.D. 1784–1785],	"	
[Of New York].		
*Joshua Maddox Wallace [Judge, A.D. 1784, of the Pleas of Burlington County, New Jersey; Member of the Assembly of the State, and of the State Convention which ratified, A.D. 1788, the Constitution of the United States; Chairman of the Convention, May 8, 1816, which formed the American Bible Society; Warden of St. Mary's, Burlington, N. J.],	"	1819, May 17.
John Chetwood,	"	
Walter Rutherford,	"	
Archibald Stuart,	"	
Abraham Ogden,	"	
[Of New Jersey].		
Robert Morris,	"	1806, May 8.
Gouverneur Morris,	"	1816, Nov. 6.
*Jasper Yeates [one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania],	"	
*Richard Willing,	"	r. 1798, Jan. 30.

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
Matthew Clarkson [Mayor of Philadelphia],	1784, Oct. 8.	1800, Oct. 5.
William Pollard,	"	
John Wilcocks [a well-known lawyer of Pennsylvania; Warden of Christ Church from 1772 to 1774 and from 1789 to 1794],	"	
John Chaloner,	"	
[Of Pennsylvania].		
*Rev'd Joseph Pilmore [Rector, A.D. ——, of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia],	1786, Oct. 4.	1825, July 24.
Rev'd Mr. Roe,	"	
William Bingham [Agent for the Colonies during the Revolutionary war, at Martinique; Delegate, A.D. 1786, to the Continental Congress; Senator, A.D. 1795–1801, of the United States from Pennsylvania; President, A.D. 1797, of the Senate],	"	1804, Feb. 7.
Robert Hare [Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania],	"	
Richard Bache [Postmaster-General of the United States, A.D. 1776],	"	1811, July 29.
Samuel Meredith,	"	
*Andrew Doz,	"	1789, Jan.
Benjamin Wynkoop,	"	
*Gerardus Clarkson, M.D.,	"	1790, Sept. 19.
Edward Tilghman [an able and eminent lawyer of Penna.],	"	1815, Nov. 1.
*Robert Strettle Jones,	"	
Woodrop Sims,	"	1793, Aug. 29.
Alexander Wilcocks,	"	1801, July 22.
*Rev'd Joseph Clarkson [Rector, A.D. 1827, of St. James's, Lancaster, Penna.],	1789, Oct. 7.	1830, Jan.
*Rev'd Joseph G. Bend [Assistant Minister, from 1787–91, of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia. In 1791, Rector of St. Paul's, Baltimore, Md.],	"	
Rev'd Nicholas Colin [Minister of the Swedes' Church, Philadelphia],	"	r. 1807.
*Colonel Samuel Ogden,	"	
Mr. [John] Swanwick,	"	1798, Aug. 1.
Mr. John Wood,	"	
*Mr. Tench Coxe [Assistant Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, A.D. 1790],	"	1824, July 17.
Rev'd Henry Vandyke [Rector, A.D. 1792, of St. Peter's, Amboy; and Christ Church, New Brunswick; and, from 1793 to 1796, of St. Mary's, Burlington, N. J.],	1790, Oct. 6.	
*Rev'd Henry Waddell [Rector, A.D. 1792, of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, N. J., and Christ Church, Middletown, N. J.],	"	1811, Jan. 20.
Rev'd Elijah I. Rattoone, D.D. [Professor, A.D. 1792, of Greek and Latin in Columbia College, N. Y.; afterwards Rector of St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore County, Maryland],	"	
Rev'd Samuel Spraggs [Rector, A.D. 1786, of St. Andrew's, Mt. Holly, N. J.],	"	
Rev'd Samuel Nesbitt [Rector, A.D. 1795, of St. Anne's, Brooklyn, N. Y.],	1790, Oct. 6.	

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
Rev'd R. C. Moore [Rector, A.D. 1795, of St. Andrew's, Staten Island, and St. Peter's, Amboy, N. J.; afterwards, 1814–41, Bishop of Virginia],	1790, Oct. 6.	1841, Nov. 11.
Rev'd William Hammel [Rector, A.D. 1795, of the churches at Jamaica, Newtown, and Flushing],	"	
Colonel Giles,	"	
Daniel Ellis,	"	
Rev'd James Abercrombie [Assistant Minister, from 1791 to 1832, of the united churches, Christ Church and St. Peter's, Philadelphia],	1791, May 11.	1841, June 26.
" Archibald Walker,	"	
James Reynolds,	"	
Charles Swift,	"	
James Ash,	"	
*Francis Gurney [Officer in the Wars of 1756 and 1776],	"	1815, May 25.
John D. Coxe [President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia],	"	r. 1814.
William Coxe [of Burlington, New Jersey; an eminent cultivator of fruit trees, and writer on the subject of them; Warden of St. Mary's, Burlington],	"	
John Coxe,	"	
John Woods,	"	
*John De Hart,	"	
William Hall,	"	
*Plunkett Fleeson [President Judge of the City Court of Philadelphia],	"	1791.
James Davidson, M.A. [Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages in the University of Pennsylvania],	"	1809, June 28.
William Barton,	"	
Benjamin Smith Barton, M.D. [Professor of Natural History, Botany, and Materia Medica, in the University of Pennsylvania],	"	1815, Dec. 19.
Judge Morris,	1791, Oct. 5.	
Isaac Decon,	"	
Elisha Lawrence,	"	
Elisha Newell,	"	
Rev'd John Croes [Minister, after A.D. 1783, of St. Peter's, Berkeley (now St. Peter's, Clarksborough), N. J.; afterwards Bishop of New Jersey],	"	1832, July 30.
*Rev'd Mr. John Bissett [Assistant Minister, A.D. 1795, of Trinity Church, N. Y.],	1793, Oct. 1.	
Dr. S. W. Johnson,	"	
Walter Rutherford,	"	
Gulian Verplanck,	"	
Robert Watts [Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, from 1778 to 1782; Warden from 1790 to 1804],	"	

After the Division of the Corporation.

Rev'd Mr. Joseph H. Turner [Rector of St. Paul's, Chester, and St. Martin's, Marcus Hook, Penna.],	1813, Oct. 15.	

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
Rev'd Mr. Frederiek Beasley [Reetor of St. Peter's Chureh, Albany, N. Y.; Provost of the University of Pennsylvania],	1813, Oct. 15.	
Rev'd James Wiltbank,	"	
" Jaekson Kemper [Assistant Minister of Christ Chureh and St. Peter's, afterwards First Missionary Bishop in the United States; finally, Bishop of Wiseonsin],	"	1870, May.
Rev'd Jehu Curtis Clay [Reetor of St. John's, Norristown, and St. James's, Perkiomen; afterwards of the Swedes' Chureh (now Chureh of the Gloria Dei), Philadelphia],	"	1863, Oet. 20.
James Milnor [Representative in Congress from Pennsylvania; from 1814 to 1816, Assistant Minister of Christ Chureh and St. Peter's; afterwards Reetor of St. George's, New York],	"	
William Meredith,	"	1844, Sept.
John Bradford Wallaee,	"	1837, Jan. 7.
Honorable William Tilghman [Chief Justiee of Pennsylvania from 1806 to 1827],	1814, June 9.	1827, April 30.
John Perot,	"	
Thomas Cumpston,	"	
P. E. Glentworth, M.D.,	"	
Thomas Hale,	1814, June 30.	1840, Nov. 29.
Rev'd Bird Wilson [Professor of Systematie Divinity in the General Theological Seminary, N. Y.],	1819, May 4.	r. 1842.
Samuel Hazlehurst,	1823, June 2.	r. 1847, May.
Cornelius Stevenson [Treasurer of the City of Philadelphia],	"	1860, April 24.
Dr. Harvey Klapp,	"	
Daniel H. Miller,	"	
Henry Hollingsworth,	"	1854, Jan. 18.
Rev'd Gregory Townsend Bedell [Rector of St. Andrew's, Philadelphia],	1824, May 4.	1834, Aug. 30.
Rev'd James Montgomery [Reetor of St. Stephen's, Philadelphia],	"	1834, Mar. 17.
Rev'd Benjamin Allen,	"	
" William Heatheote De Lanecy [Provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Reetor of St. Peter's, Philadelphia; and Bishop of Western New York],	1831, May 3.	1865, April 5.
Right Rev'd Henry Ustick Onderdonk [Rector of St. Ann's, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Bishop of Pennsylvania],	"	1858, Dec. 6.
Horaee Binney,	"	
William John Bell,	"	1834, Dee. 27.
Henry J. Hutehins,	"	
John Andrews,	"	
John C. Lowber,	"	
Rev'd William Cooper Mead,	1832, May 10.	
" William Bryant,	"	r. 1834.
James S. Smith,	"	1861, Jan. 25.
John Read,	"	1854, July 13.
Rev'd Henry J. Morton [Rector of St. James's, Philadelphia],	1834, May 8.	
" John Waller James [Reetor of Christ Chureh, Meadville, Penna.; same of Christ Chureh, Philadelphia],	"	1836, Aug. 14.

	Date of Election.	Date of Vacation of Office.
William Rawle, Jr.,	1834, May, 3.	1858, Aug. 9.
Rev'd George Upfold [Rector of Trinity, Pittsburgh, and Bishop of Indiana],	1835, May 22.	
Rev'd Henry William Ducachet [Rector of St. Stephen's, Philadelphia],	"	1865, Dec. 13.
Rev'd Samuel Allen McCoskrey [Rector of St. Paul's, Philadelphia; Bishop of Michigan],	"	
Tobias Wagner,	1836, May 16.	1868.
William Challoner,	"	w. 1858, May.
Thomas Dunlap,	"	r. 1854, May 2.
Horace Binney, Jr.,	"	1870, Feb. 3.
T. Leaming Smith,	"	
Rev'd Benjamin Dorr [Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia; declining the Episcopate of Maryland],	1840, May 5.	1869, Sept. 18.
Rev'd William Henry Odenheimer [Rector of St. Peter's, Philadelphia; Bishop of New Jersey],	1841, May 4.	
Robert Ralston,	"	1858, May.
James Browne Smith,	"	
George Mifflin Wharton,	1843.	1870, Feb. 5.
Right Rev'd Alonzo Potter [Bishop of Pennsylvania],	1846.	1865, July 4.
Peter Williamson,	1851.	
James M. Aertsen,	1851.	
Richard R. Montgomery,	"	
Thomas Robins,	"	
John R. Wucherer,	"	
Charles Willing, M.D.,	"	
Robert McCall,	"	
Peter McCall,	"	
James Cox,	1855.	1863.
Benjamin Gerhard,	1858.	1864.
William H. Newbold,	"	1862.
John William Wallace,	1861.	
Rev'd George Leeds, D.D. [Rector, A.D. 1860 to 1867, of St. Peter's, Philadelphia; 1870, of Grace Church, Baltimore],	1862.	r. 1867.
Henry Coppée,	"	
John Welsh,	1863.	
Ellis Yarnall,	"	
Rev'd Dr. Goodwin [Provost of the University of Pennsylvania],	1864.	
Rev'd Benjamin Wistar Morris [Bishop of Oregon, &c.],	1866.	r. 1868.
George W. Hunter,	"	
Rev'd Walter Mitchell [Rector of St. Mark's, Philadelphia],	1867.	r. 1868.
George H. Kirkham,	1868.	
Rev'd Th. F. Davies [Rector, 1868, of St. Peter's, Philadelphia],	1869.	
Edwin M. Lewis,	"	

THE OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,

MAY, 1869.

PRESIDENT.

MEMBERS.

	Elected.
Hon. Horace Binney,	1831.
Rev'd H. J. Morton, D.D.,	1834.
Horace Binney, Jr.,	1836.
Rev'd Benjamin Dorr, D.D.,	1840.
George M. Wharton,	1843.
Peter Williamson,	1851.
James M. Aertsen,	"
R. R. Montgomery,	"
Thomas Robins,	"
J. R. Wucherer,	"
Charles Willing, M.D.,	"
Peter McCall,	"
John William Wallace,	1861.
Henry Coppée,	1862.
John Welsh,	1863.
Ellis Yarnall,	"
Rev'd D. R. Goodwin, D.D.,	1864.
George W. Hunter,	1866.
George H. Kirkham,	1865.
Rev'd Th. F. Davies,	1869.
Edwin M. Lewis,	"

ACTING COMMITTEE.

Hon. Peter McCall, *Chairman.*

Horace Binney, Jr., Ellis Yarnall,
Richard R. Montgomery, George W. Hunter.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

James M. Aertsen, John R. Wucherer,
Peter Williamson.

COMMITTEE ON TRUSTS.

Horace Binney, Jr., Richard R. Montgomery,
John William Wallace.

ACTUARY AND TREASURER.

James Somers Smith.

SECRETARY.

James M. Aertsen.

FISCAL CONDITION OF THE CORPORATION, MAY, 1869.

The Assets consist of—

	Par.	Market Value.
Real Estate,	$2,000.00	$2,000.00
Ground Rents,	72,763.82	86,006.28
State of Pennsylvania Loans,	85,000.00	90,100.00
City of Philadelphia Loans,	58,300.00	57,721.00
United States Loans,	38,500.00	45,330.00
Bonds and Mortgages,	16,600.00	16,600.00
Cash,	532.18	532.18
	$273,696 00	$298,289.46

The Nominal Amount of all outstanding Engagements is

Policies of Annuitants,	$6,000.00	
Policies of Endowments,	77,715.07	
Deposits on Interest,	3,923.40	
		$87,638.47

The number of Annuitants in expectancy are,	5
" " Endowments in expectancy,	58
" " Deposits on Interest,	33

The Amount of Legal Claims paid during the year 1868–9,	$1,566.96	
The Amount of Gratuities paid during the same year, being those voted at Annual Meeting, May 5, 1868,	4,100.00	$5,666.96

THE OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,

MAY 3, 1870.

PRESIDENT.

The Honorable HORACE BINNEY, LL.D.

MEMBERS.

Rev. Henry J. Morton, D.D.,
Peter Williamson,
James M. Aertsen,
Richard R. Montgomery,
Thomas Robins,
John R. Wucherer,
Charles Willing, M.D.,
Peter McCall,
John Wm. Wallace,
Henry Coppée,
John Welsh,
Ellis Yarnall,
Rev. D. R. Goodwin, D.D.,
George W. Hunter,
George H. Kirkham,
Rev. Thomas F. Davies,
Edwin M. Lewis,
Rev. Eugene A. Hoffman, D.D.,
P. Pemberton Morris,
Robert M. Lewis.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

James M. Aertsen, John R. Wucherer,
Peter Williamson.

ACTING COMMITTEE.

Richard R. Montgomery, *Chairman.*
Peter McCall, George W. Hunter,
Ellis Yarnall, George H. Kirkham.

COMMITTEE ON TRUSTS.

John Wm. Wallace, Dr. Charles Willing,
P. Pemberton Morris.

ACTUARY AND TREASURER.

James Somers Smith.

SECRETARY.

James M. Aertsen.